



EVERY TUESDAY

# CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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## THE FLYING BEAVERS

*By Plane to a New Home  
8000 Miles Away*

**T**WENTY young Canadian beavers, not to be outdone by the six British thoroughbred horses which recently flew across the Atlantic, have made a far longer flight, without quitting the American Continent, in response to a request from the Argentine Government.

The Argentine has no beavers, whereas Canada has more than enough, and the Dominion Government gladly responded when the great South American country applied for a foundation stock to start an experimental beaver farm south of the Equator.

An expert was sent to Moose Lake, near Winnipeg, and quickly caught 20 young beavers. Then, with an ample larder of twigs and bark for refreshment on the way, and with their friendly captor accompanying them to minister to their needs and comfort, the young hopefuls, fresh from their waterside home, took to the air, and flew by a Pan-American cargo Clipper to Buenos Aires, the Argentine capital, 6500 miles away. Transferring to a second plane, they continued their flight for another 1500 miles south of that city, and are now to set up home under a new flag, beside fresh, tree-fringed waters, with every prospect pleasing.

### The First Engineers

Beavers are the wonder creatures of the warm-blooded animals, but never in their millions of years' unwritten history have they done anything as astonishing as this. The marvels they perform are of a different order. The first of the world's engineers, they build lodges on the bank of a lake or slow stream, and then throw a dam across the water in order to maintain a constant depth, winter and summer. When ice solidifies the surface they reach the water from below by means

of a tunnel made at the base of their lodge.

They secure materials for the dam by felling trees, gnawed through by their chisel-like teeth. The tree having fallen, its boughs are bitten off, and the trunk reduced to logs, which are pushed into the water, propelled to the dam, fixed in position by the builders' front paws, and then strengthened by the addition of a wall of mud and stone, patted into shape and solidity by the same skilled little feet.

We pay tribute to the unknown human genius who first built an arch of masonry; these animals, only 30 inches long, and weighing some 50 pounds, learned ages ago that an arch in the form of a bow, facing an oncoming current, is the surest resistance to water-pressure. So every beaver-dam opposes its bow to the flow of the water. Moreover, the dam has its sluices—openings piercing the summit—so that excess water may escape and not cause flooding.

Bark and young wood are stored in the pool as winter food, reached from the tunnel at the bottom of the lodge, the beaver being able to remain long-submerged thanks to its power of closing its nostrils and so preventing water from entering them. The crowning marvel of beaver-life is the fact that when supplies of wood become exhausted near the water, the little workers proceed inland, fell more trees there, and, having excavated canals, float the logs down to their lake. Truly it is a cargo of untaught magicians that Argentina has received from the air.

### Ready For Battle



Well-armed for a skirmish in the snow, a messenger-boy cheerfully faces the enemy.

## Luang Pradit & His Freedom Fighters

**N**OT long ago a senior Siamese statesman, Luang Pradit, who led Siamese resistance to the Japanese during the war, paid a visit to Britain and was received with all the honour he had so nobly won. His romantic exploits in the war were kept a closely-guarded secret, but recently Lord Mountbatten revealed something of them.

When the Japanese over-ran his country Luang Pradit, or His Excellency Pridi Panomyong, to give him his real name, was in the Siamese Government, but he refused to sign Siam's declaration of war against Britain. As he was very popular and influential in Siam, the pro-Japanese quisling, Pibul, promoted him to the Council of Regency, hoping that there he would be a mere harmless figurehead.

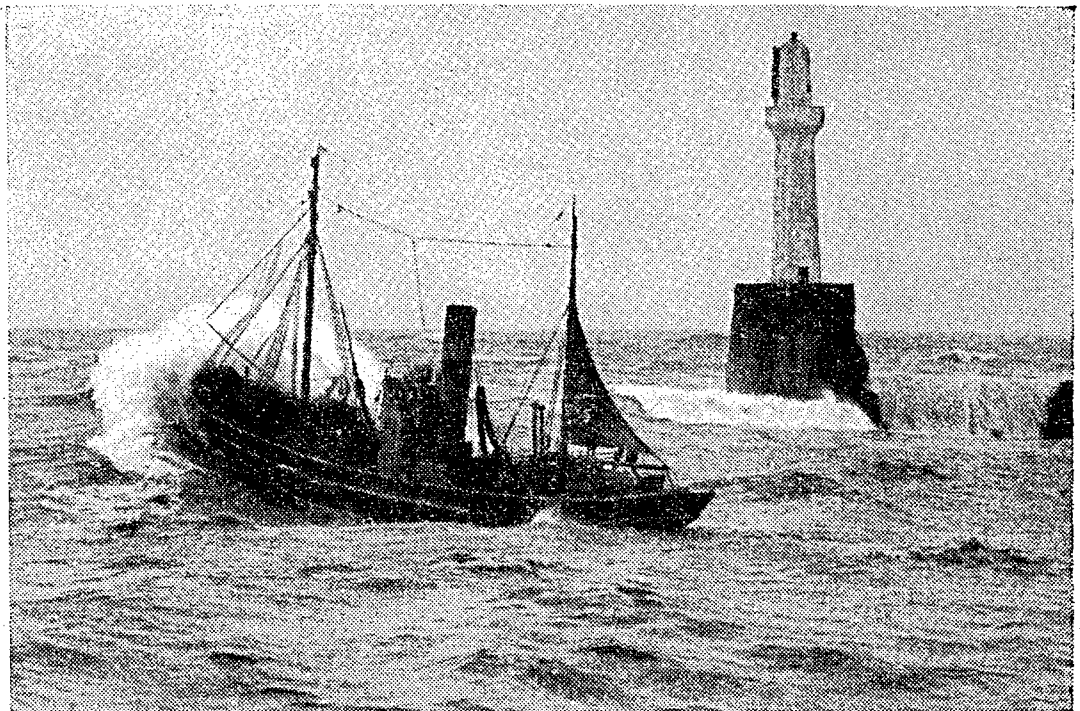
But, unknown to Pibul, Luang Pradit began to organise under-

ground resistance to the invaders. After great difficulties he managed to get into touch with Lord Mountbatten and was able, through secret envoys, to work with him in preparing plans for the Siamese Freedom Fighters to take their part in the campaign in South East Asia.

In 1944 Luang Pradit succeeded in bringing about the overthrow of the Pibul regime and in replacing it with a government consisting of his own followers. He organised 60,000 fighting men and a large number of others who helped in the defeat of the Japanese.

All this he did for three years under the very noses of his enemies who, if they had known what was going on, would have shown little mercy to the Allies' devoted Siamese friend.

## GALE WARNING IN OPERATION



A trawler plunges into heavy seas as she leaves Aberdeen harbour

## JOURNEY TO THE STRATOSPHERE

*In Search of Scientific Knowledge*

**P**ROFESSOR JEAN PICCARD is to attempt to make a balloon voyage to a height of about 19 miles—farther away from the Earth's surface than any human being has yet reached. He will travel in an aluminium gondola supported by a specially-constructed multiple balloon, and will make this adventurous ascent from Otumwa, Ohio.

Professor Jean Piccard is the twin brother of the famous Swiss scientist, Auguste Piccard, who in 1932 startled the world by going up to a height of 10½ miles in an airtight spherical container, supplied with oxygen

and carried under a balloon. He ventured this distance from Mother Earth not merely to establish a height record but to seek knowledge of conditions in the stratosphere, that belt of atmosphere which lies at a distance of from eight to ten miles above the earth's surface. He made another ascent, later, into this strange region, and in 1935 presented the spherical container of his balloon—his travelling and observation cabin—to the Science Museum at South Kensington.

### The Highest Yet

In 1933 the Russian Commander Prokofieff and two Russian airmen went up to 12 miles in what was then the biggest balloon in the world. The following year, Dr Jean Piccard, who is to make the forthcoming attempt to reach 19 miles, went up ten miles accompanied by his wife, their purpose being to study cosmic rays. His daring wife obtained a balloonist's licence so that she might navigate their enormous balloon, which contained 600,000 cubic feet of gas, and thus leave her husband free to devote himself to the scientific instruments they carried with them.

In 1935, two Americans, Captain Orvil Anderson and Captain Albert Stevens, established the world's height record by going up to nearly 13½ miles from Rapid City, South Dakota.

May good fortune go with Professor Piccard on his glorious peacetime adventure to further the cause of scientific knowledge.

## The Snow Cruiser

*LUXURY IN THE ANTARCTIC*

**R**ECENTLY the CN described the elaborate equipment which Rear-Admiral Byrd was taking with him on his latest exploring expedition to the Antarctic.

On his last trip to the Far South, which set out from America on November 15, 1939, Admiral Byrd had an ingenious device which was regarded then as the last thing in luxury for Polar travel. It was a peculiar vehicle called a "snow cruiser" or "snowmobile." It weighed 27 tons and had wheels ten feet in diameter which could defy all but the deepest snow-drifts; it could travel 5000 miles and had a speed of 20 m.p.h. On its roof it bore an aeroplane.

### Food For a Year

The "snowmobile" had wireless transmitting apparatus, and as well as housing most of the scientific equipment it was fitted with sleeping quarters and a kitchen; it could carry four men, with provisions for a year.

Nothing like the "snow cruiser" had been seen in the Antarctic wastes since the beginning of time. Captain Scott or Shackleton would have marvelled at it. What must the penguins have thought of man's latest ingenious contrivance for penetrating their icy fastnesses?

But the fact is that the "snow cruiser" did yeoman service for Admiral Byrd's 1939 expedition and helped to chart the 1600 miles between Marguerite Bay, 800 miles south of Cape Horn, and the Little America settlement, about 2000 miles south-east of New Zealand.



## FINDING NEW HOMELANDS FOR A MILLION PEOPLE

IN May 1945, which saw the collapse of Nazi Germany, Allied armies raced through the length and breadth of that unhappy land to bring succour to twelve million Allied citizens who had been uprooted by the enemy and turned into wretched slaves of the Nazis. Since then eleven million Displaced Persons of all nationalities have gone home to start a new life, often under difficult conditions, but with hope of a better future.

But there still remain a million Displaced Persons scattered in camps, mostly in Germany and Italy. They are the "hard core" of Europe's military and political refugees, and they refuse to go back to their old homes. They are the most unhappy people on the Continent, people with no certain home or future. The latest available figures show that 400,000 of these Displaced Persons are Polish, 200,000 are Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian, 100,000 are Jews from East Europe. There are also 100,000 Ukrainians, 70,000 Yugoslavs, and some smaller groups.

Their homes, as can be seen from the list, all lie where Russian power is supreme and where the Governments are, one way or another, influenced by the Soviet system. It is precisely because of these political (and to a certain extent economic) conditions that most of the DPs refuse to return. Some of them fear to live under such regimes, some dislike them strongly; and they all claim from the Western Powers the right of asylum. This is, traditionally, a strong claim which is not likely to be rejected either by Britain or the United States or France.

### An International Scheme

However, the world is too complicated today to assume that if we let these people stay away from their countries all will be well. So once the right of asylum in various hospitable lands has been granted, there remains to be solved the gigantic problem of how to make of them useful citizens of their new countries. This question has already been discussed by the United Nations, and it has been decided to form

an International Refugee Organisation. But this alone will not solve the whole problem.

Britain, of course, is actively participating in international discussions on the refugees, and just before the Christmas recess the House of Lords devoted a day to a debate on the DPs. It is difficult to say if and when the International Refugee Organisation is going to start work. Nor is it certain if such organisation will be able to deal with the great problem of resettling one million people. But no time should be lost.

### A Lead by Britain

It is for this reason that the British Government has tried to begin some work at once in co-operation with other nations. At Britain's invitation a Brazilian mission has reached Berlin to see what could be done with some of the DPs who may want to go to Brazil. Investigations by an Argentine mission are going on at the same time. Further inquiries are made in other South American States. Again, relatives of DPs in Canada, Australia, Palestine, and also in this country can nominate such persons to come over to join them. In addition, Britain is admitting 2000 women from the Baltic states for hospital work.

Obviously these moves are only the beginning of the great task of resettlement. Many years will pass before the former Displaced Persons will finally feel themselves incorporated into the communities of which they wish to become worthy new citizens. But Britain's prompt action may prove decisive in shortening this difficult period by many months, if not years.

## Dutch Commonwealth of Nations

THE Dutch Parliament has authorised its Government to sign the Cheribon Agreement. This was drawn up in Java last November by representatives of Holland and Indonesia at a conference presided over by Lord Killearn, the Special Commissioner of the British Government for South-East Asia.

The Cheribon Agreement provides for the setting-up of an independent State comprising the many islands which used to be called the Netherlands East Indies. Thus ends the bitter strife which had been going on in that region since it was liberated from the Japanese.

The new sovereign democratic country is to be called the United States of Indonesia—a name to remember for geography exams! It will consist of Sumatra, Java, Madura, Dutch Borneo, and the Great East—the name given to the many formerly Dutch islands east of Borneo.

This new country of Indonesia will co-operate with the Netherlands (Holland) in establishing what is to be called the Netherlands Indonesian Union—similar

to the British Commonwealth of Nations—the head of which will be the Netherlands Sovereign.

The West Indian possessions of Surinam and Curaçao will remain Dutch colonies. In both parts of the new Dutch Commonwealth the rights and liberties of the citizens will be safeguarded according to the Charter of United Nations, and Holland will take steps to secure membership of the United Nations for Indonesia.

Dutchmen and Indonesians have set the world a splendid example of co-operation.

### BLUEBELL WOOD

ALDERMAN G. H. Bowler, who is an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Loughborough, Leicestershire, presented as a Christmas gift to the community which he has faithfully served for many years, a 48-acre beauty spot in the Charnwood Forest known to everyone as Bluebell Wood. The generous donor refers to his gift as "in memory of childhood."

## Constitution For China

MEETING at Nanking for the past two months some 1300 delegates from China proper, Manchuria, Mongolia, and Turkestan have been drawing up a new Constitution for China. All parties, except the Communists, have contributed to the new form of government which will not, as hitherto in the Republic, be the monopoly of the Kuomintang, or National People's Party.

Nor will Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek enjoy the supreme power he has wielded in recent years, for a kind of Cabinet system, with ministers responsible to a legislature elected by the people and an upper chamber representing provinces and corporations, is planned.

China, however, has never known the democratic methods of Western lands, and it may be a long time before these can be made to work smoothly in this vast and much-afflicted land.

It is hoped that the new Constitution, which is expected to come into being by the end of this year, will prove workable, and provide that strong and efficient government which will bring internal peace to the Chinese people.

## PERHAPS—

—some of your friends would like to have the CN each week, and they do not know that it can be obtained quite easily now. Then why not tell them that a firm order placed with a newsagent will ensure regular delivery.

THE chances of obtaining occasional copies are small indeed, for owing to paper restrictions newsagents cannot cater for casual sales.

IF no newsagent is available the CN can be sent to any address in the British Isles for 17s 4d a year, or for 15s 2d overseas. In this case please send a cheque, postal order, or International money order to The Amalgamated Press, Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, London, E C 4.

## A New Malaya

THE draft of a new Constitution for Malaya, worked out by the Malays themselves and recently published, proposes to establish a Federation of Malaya, under the protection of Britain, and consisting of the nine Malay States and the settlements of Penang and Malacca, but excluding Singapore.

The Central Government of the Federation is to consist of a High Commissioner, who will in some respects represent the King, a Federal Executive Council, and a Federal Legislative Council. Each State belonging to the Federation will have a government consisting of its own constitutional ruler, assisted by a State Executive Council and a Council of State, with power to make laws.

Those entitled to Malayan citizenship will be persons born in Malaya who have lived there for ten of the preceding 15 years, or, in the case of immigrants, those who have lived in Malaya for 15 of the preceding 20 years.

## WORLD NEWS REEL

The Children's Newspaper, January 11, 1947

**RECORD HARVEST.** The winter wheat crop in the U.S. for 1947 is likely to be 946,527,000 bushels, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's estimate. If this is realised it will be the largest in the history of the United States.

The French Assembly this month will probably discuss a Bill to preserve the battlefields of Normandy intact as they are now. The British artificial "Mulberry" port of Arromanches is among the historic sites which would be preserved.

The Chinese province of Szechwan has made a gift to Britain of two stuffed pandas. They will go to the Natural History Museum, South Kensington.

**AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC.** The Australian Government is to send a ship, equipped with suitable aircraft, to find an ice-free base in the Antarctic. If a suitable base is found, the Government will proceed with plans for the exploration of Australian Antarctic territory.

In a message to Allied troops in Italy, General Sir William Morgan said it was hoped that during 1947 Italy will be completely evacuated by British and American forces.

## HOME NEWS REEL

**WOOLLY.** A sample of official language: The Knitted Goods (Amendment) (No 2) Directions 1946 (SRO1928) now bring into force Supplement 4 and Supplement 5 to schedules G and H of Utility Knitted Goods.

The University College of North Wales has received a gift of £2000 from Mr H. Buckland Jones, a London surgeon, to establish an agricultural scholarship in memory of his father.

Over 25,500 schoolchildren, from 524 schools in England and Wales, saw the Britain Can Make It Exhibition on the special Tuesday "school" mornings.

**SCHOOLBOY EXCAVATORS.** Some Canterbury schoolboys, excavating on a bombed site, unearthed the floor of a defence tower of the city's medieval wall. The discovery is of considerable archaeological interest.

The appointment of assistants to supervise children's washing of hands, entry into the dining-room, and table manners, was discussed recently by the Croydon Council.

Citrons (a species of orange) which grew in the open air at the Falmouth Corporation's Rosehill Gardens were sent to the King by the Mayor of Falmouth.

## YOUTH NEWS REEL

**CLIFF-FACE RESCUE.** The Scout Bronze Cross, given only for outstanding gallantry with extraordinary risk, has been awarded to Patrol Leaders David Henry Campbell and Maurice William Bryan of the 11th South Dublin (Zion) Scout Troop for their heroism in rescuing a man from the cliff face of the Powerscourt Waterfall, Enniskerry.

At this time every year Scouts all over the country present stage shows in aid of their Group Funds or charities. Max Kester, the radio script-writer, has provided the words, and Max Saunders has composed the music of Robin Hood, which the 1st, 3rd, and 9th Ruislip (Middlesex) Scout Groups are to present on five days—January 14 to 18.

In his New Year message, the Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan, says: "The 1947 International

For the first time for three years the opera season at La Scala Theatre, Milan, opened recently. Benjamin Britten's opera, *Peter Grimes*, is to be performed there this season.

A customs control has been introduced by the French Government between the Saar territory and the remainder of the French zone in Germany.

Audubon's famous work *Birds of America*, in four volumes, was sold for £2700 in a London sale-room.

**MONTY IN MOSCOW.** During his stay in Russia, Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery is to visit the three principal military academies in Moscow.

Britain is giving Austria a grant of £8,000,000 and credit amounting to over £1,000,000 for wool purchases.

A gold nugget, weighing 240 ounces and worth £2100, has been found in the Murozhnaya River in Siberia.

Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* has been translated and published in Russia for the first time.

During 1946 British films had earned £2,000,000 from their showing in the United States.

**BRAVO!** Kent coal-miners recently produced 40,000 tons of coal in one week, 11,000 tons more than their target.

The Empire Cancer Campaign raised a record income of £130,000 last year.

Patients dangerously ill in hospitals in Wimbledon, Kingston, and Cheam can now be visited during the night by relatives who will be driven to the hospital by car owners, members of a voluntary organisation.

**WISE SPENDING.** The Ministry of Education plans to spend £24,000,000 this year on building new schools and repairing and improving existing establishments and the school meals programme, if the labour and materials are available. During last year £7,000,000 was spent.

The second largest Roman bath discovered in Britain—the one at Bath is the biggest—has been excavated at Well, near Bedale in Yorkshire. It is 40 feet long, 15 wide, and six deep.

**LIQUIDATING BOMBS.** The steamer *Empire Lark*, carrying a cargo of gas bombs and high explosives, is to be towed out to sea from Plymouth and sunk.

Jamboree, in France, will be a great chance for Scouts to show the world how the nations can be friends and work together in a common cause, transcending colour, creed, and language, and all those other barriers which divide us."

**CHIEF RANGER.** Princess Elizabeth has accepted the appointment of Chief Ranger of the British Empire. Rangers are the senior branch of the Girl Guides Association, for girls between 16 and 21. There are 27,000 Rangers in Britain and Northern Ireland.

Corporal John Robert Clarke, age 16, of the 1st Blyth Company, Boys Brigade, dived 15 feet from a pier to rescue his brother from drowning in the sea. John has been awarded the BB Diploma for Gallant Conduct.



The Children's Newspaper, January 11, 1947

## The Highland Postman Calls

MOST of us are familiar with the postman's Rat-Tat, but even in Britain there are places where it is not heard.

A Scottish correspondent tells us of two postmen in Sutherlandshire who deliver letters and parcels to, and receive letters for despatch from, people whom they seldom see. They are long-distance mail-bus drivers, and one of them, James Mathers, covers a 60-mile daily service between Durness village and Lairg; the other is Alexander Mackay, whose route is 43-miles long, between Scourie village and Lairg.

Occasionally they will stop

their buses in what appears to be the middle of nowhere. They will open, with a key, a small wooden box perched on four legs at the roadside, and place mail and newspapers inside before locking it again. Later in the day, or perhaps not until the next morning, a shepherd or gamekeeper whose home is miles away out of sight behind the hills will come to open the box for his letters and leave outgoing letters to be collected by the bus the following day.

In one case the owner of a wayside box lives on the other side of a loch and rows across for his mail every day.

## OFF THE TRAM INTO THE POND

WHILE passing Queen's Park, in Glasgow, in a tramcar, Alex Miller suddenly noticed a face and arm appear above the water in the boating pond.

Without a moment's hesitation he raced downstairs, leaped from the moving tram, ran 300 yards across the park and jumped into the pond to drag out two-year-old Loraine Thomson.

After seeing that the little girl was safe, Mr Miller went home, changed his clothes and went off to his work again without bothering to mention his act to anyone.

## The Understudy Makes Good

WHEN a north-country Amateur Dramatic Society were presenting *The Desert Song* recently, there was an unexpected interlude towards the end of the show. A donkey which should have taken its place on the stage refused to make its debut.

The stage hands coaxed it, pushed it from behind, and pulled it from in front, but the donkey would not budge. It was fortunate that this occurred at the final dress rehearsal; and so the producer was able to experiment with an understudy. And it was more fortunate still that a number of donkeys which had

spent the summer on Blackpool sands were now in winter quarters, and were grazing in a nearby field.

So the producer of the show hastily made a tour of inspection, came to terms with the farmer, and introduced another donkey into that all-important part of the play.

The understudy behaved magnificently at the dress rehearsal, and so it was entrusted with the part on the opening night. Again, it behaved like one born to the part, and so the donkey from Blackpool appeared on the stage at every performance, much to the delight of the audience and the particular interest of some children who felt sure they were renewing acquaintance with an old friend of their summer holidays.

## BATTLE CASUALTY

IN the heat and dust of battle strange things happen, as this tale told of H M S Stornoway shows.

During a wartime action the shell of one of a pair of tortoises, kept as mascots, was cracked when hit by a bomb splinter. Hurriedly, one of the crew performed First Aid by filling the crack with putty, and the pet seemed none the worse for this rough-and-ready surgery. In fact, we are told that it is alive and well today!

## ADVENTURES OF A FAMOUS POEM

THE manuscript of a famous poem, *Africa*, by Petrarch, the great medieval Italian poet, has had some strange adventures since it was stolen from the Trieste Library during the war. Among them was a voyage across the Atlantic, for it was recently discovered in a machine-shop in Union City, New Jersey, U.S.A.

The owner of the shop, a former soldier in an American airborne division, said that when he was in Italy he bought the precious manuscript from an Italian for two cartons of cigarettes and 75 or 80 dollars.

The Trieste Library officials traced their treasured possession after it had been offered for sale to Cornell University, whose authorities refused to buy it because they knew it belonged to Trieste Library.

Petrarch, or Francesco Petrarca, lived from 1304 to 1374, and may be said to have been the writer who began the Renaissance. *Africa*, an epic poem, was written in Latin.

## The Plastic Oyster-Shell

WHETHER or not the average oyster has any pride of home, he is going to be ruthlessly turned out of it and transferred to an undignified, prefabricated abode until such time as he meets his ultimate fate. This new advance in the oyster trade has been made in America, where oysters taken fresh from the bed are being removed from their natural shells and transferred to man-made oyster-shells of accurately moulded plastics. In its new abode the oyster appears to live happily for several days in a refrigerator, and, when required for the table, the plastic shell is considerably easier to open by unskilled gourmets.

## STAMP NEWS

ARGENTINE has issued two stamps in celebration of Aviation Week. Each shows a hand supporting a globe and an aeroplane. One stamp is a green 15-centimos, and the other a brown 60-centimos.

LUXEMBURG has issued a charity set of four to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the death of Jean l'Aveugle (John the Blind). Each stamp bears the head and shoulders of this blind king of Bohemia who fell at the Battle of Crecy while fighting for the French. He was the son of Count Henry III of Luxembourg, afterward Emperor Henry VII.

## SAD RECORD OF BRITAIN'S ROADS

IN the tragic tally of road deaths and injuries during the month of November 1946, the only hopeful sign is the decrease in the number of children killed. Seventy-eight children lost their lives, 33 fewer than in the previous November. Of these 78 tragedies, 24 occurred during the hours of darkness.

Altogether 531 persons were killed and 14,493 injured last November, a shockingly high total and the worst of the year up to that month. The deaths were 50 more than in November 1945, and the injured numbered 2459 more. The rise in road deaths was mainly among pedestrians over 15 years of age, of whom 233 were killed, compared with 132 in the previous November.

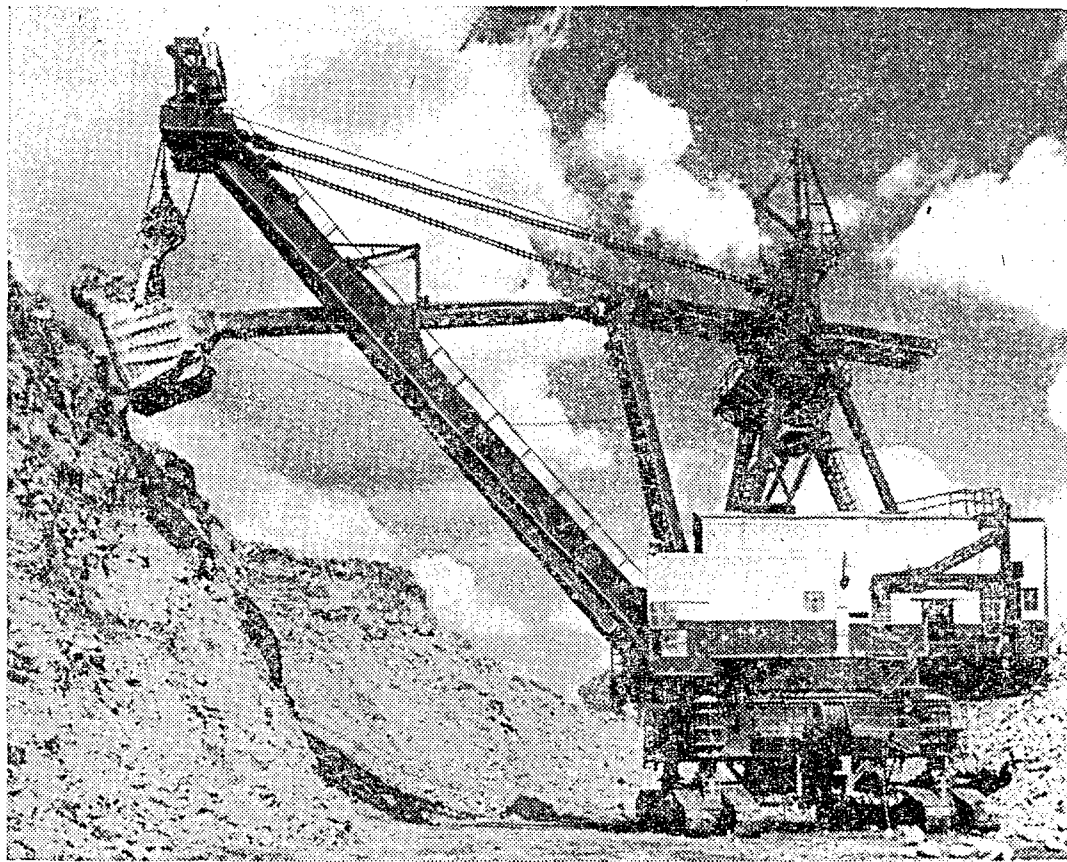
It is a grim story, but the marked decrease in the deaths of children leads us to hope that our young people are becoming real pioneers in the cause of road safety. May their good work continue to improve.

## Glasgow Weavers

SCHOOLGIRLS in Glasgow are now helping to keep alive the old Scottish craft of weaving. They work on handlooms in their classrooms with wool bought with their own coupons.

To a certain extent weaving is dying out in the country districts of Scotland, but there is a growing interest in the craft among city girls. This is fostered largely by the Education authority.

Twenty Glasgow schools have weaving classes, and the interest among secondary school pupils is so great that the Education Department are unable to meet the many requests on hand from schools anxious to start classes. But for the war, which brought shortage of both yarn and looms, there is little doubt that weaving would have already been established as a major craft taught in Glasgow schools.



**Mechanical Navy**

This huge mechanical shovel, the largest in the world, is seen in operation at an open coal mine in Ohio. It scoops in one bite enough material to fill a room 12 feet long, 10 feet high, and 9 feet wide.

## Together Again

IF ships could talk, the two halves of the Norwegian tanker *Thorshövd* would have much to tell each other, for they are now joined together again after leading a separate existence for three years.

The *Thorshövd* was torpedoed during the North African landings in 1942 and broke in two. Somehow the fore half found its way to Gibraltar and the stern half to Bona in Algeria. For three years these forlorn half-ships thus lay miles apart. Then they were both towed to the Tyne and there, in the skilful hands of our shipbuilders, they were happily fixed together again. Recently the *Thorshövd*, looking like a new ship, left the Tyne for Norway—and home.

## NOT FOR SALE

A WELL-KNOWN London store had on view in its windows many delightful and original toys marked Not for Sale. They had been made and sent by the orphaned children of Czechoslovakia to the children of Dr Barnardo's Homes.

## SKATING WEATHER

OUTDOOR skaters, members of the National Skating Association, are hoping for a frost this winter severe enough to enable the outdoor Amateur Championship of Great Britain to be competed for. Not since 1933 has this event been held. It takes place over a course of one and a half miles, and was won in 1933 at Lingay Fen, Cambridgeshire, by Mr Cyril W. Horn.

From then until the winter of 1939-40 there was not enough ice for the holding of the event. In the first winter of the war, when there was a sharp cold spell, the Duddleston Cup was competed for at Lingay Fen and won by H. Tipper, but all amateur championships were cancelled because of the war.

Most young people will hope, with the open-air amateur skating enthusiasts, that this winter will provide us with some good skating weather.

**At the kerb, halt.  
Eyes right, eyes left.  
If all clear, quick march!**

## The Lost Colours

EVERY regiment of the British Army is immensely proud of its colours.

During the war a battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers lost theirs when they were defending the Lescout Canal, in Belgium. Eventually the precious emblem was found by Czechs in the baggage of a German family in Bohemia, just before the family left to return home.

The other day, at a small town near Prague, the lost colours were formally restored to a party of officers and men of the Lancashire Fusiliers, who, in turn, presented an illuminated address to show their gratitude.

## THE MILKY WAY

CROSSING the Atlantic by air from New York not long ago, 21 babies and their 21 mothers, going to join 21 daddies in the U.S. Zone in Germany, had consumed 45 pints of milk, 80 jars of baby food, and some tinned milk by the time their plane reached Iceland, where it had been diverted because of bad weather. Fortunately, they were able to obtain fresh supplies in Iceland.



## TO WASH OR NOT TO WASH?

*That is the Question*

THE present shortage of soap and towels might seem to play into the hands of the boy who, asked what little luxury he proposed to deny himself during Lent, promptly answered "Washing!"

Even as things are, however, we may still seem faddy to the Eskimos, who, whatever their daring during their brief summer, never wash during their long winter. Polar explorers at times have to manage without shaving or washing throughout the long night of winter, and two Norwegians, Mikkelsen and Iversen, after being lost in north-east Greenland for 28 months, were so black-faced and hairy that when accident led to their rescue the rescuers actually ran away at the first sight, thinking that the two wanderers were savages.

But it is impossible to think of washing in the winter wilds without recalling the unparalleled experience of Captain John Smith, that greatest of figures in the early days of Virginia. While exploring and seeking food for the starving colonists, he was captured by the Red Indians of the tribe ruled by King Powhattan, father of the Princess Pocahontas. In preparation for the tribal feast which, but for her heroism on his behalf would have preceded the brave captain's death, it was necessary that he should wash, although the weather was appallingly cold. So the queen herself brought in the bowl of water in which he was to cleanse his hands. But a towel? Yes, a towel, too, was forthcoming. It was a great bunch of wild turkey feathers!

## MORE PEOPLE IN FIJI

THE 1946 census of Fiji has shown that the population has increased in ten years by nearly one third.

There are 260,000 people in the Colony, including 26,000 in Suva, the capital.

Only a few thousands of Fiji's quarter-of-a-million people are white. The others are dark-skinned native Fijians or equally dark people who emigrated from British India.

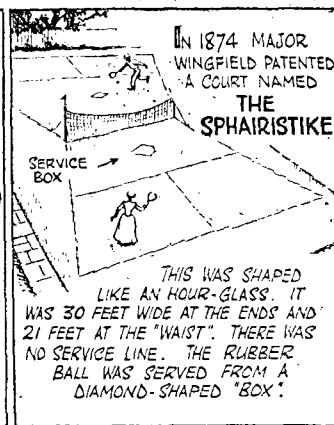
## Games & Their Beginnings

### LAWN TENNIS

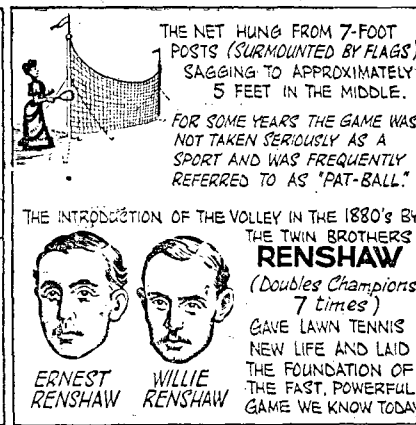
GREW OUT OF A MUCH OLDER GAME KNOWN AS ROYAL OR COURT TENNIS AND WAS PLANNED BY



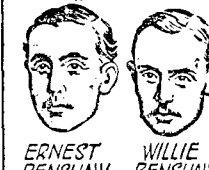
MAJOR W.C. WINGFIELD  
formerly of the King's Dragoon Guards.



IN 1874 MAJOR WINGFIELD PATENTED A COURT NAMED THE SPHAIRISTIQUE. THIS WAS SHAPED LIKE AN HOUR-GLASS. IT WAS 30 FEET WIDE AT THE ENDS AND 21 FEET AT THE "WAIST". THERE WAS NO SERVICE LINE. THE RUBBER BALL WAS SERVED FROM A DIAMOND-SHAPED "BOX".



THE NET HUNG FROM 7-FOOT POSTS (SURMOUNTED BY FLAGS), SAGGING TO APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET IN THE MIDDLE. FOR SOME YEARS THE GAME WAS NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY AS A SPORT AND WAS FREQUENTLY REFERRED TO AS "PAT-BALL". THE INTRODUCTION OF THE VOLLEY IN THE 1880'S BY THE TWIN BROTHERS RENSCHAW (Doubles Champions 7 times) GAVE LAWN TENNIS NEW LIFE AND LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE FAST, POWERFUL GAME WE KNOW TODAY.



ERNEST RENSCHAW WILLIE RENSCHAW

## TWELFTH NIGHT WAS ONCE A GREAT OCCASION

THOUGH Twelfth Night (January 6) passes almost unnoticed nowadays, it was once a great day in the calendar, when people enjoyed their last happy revels before the twelve days of Christmas jollity came to an end.

In the West of England, even within living memory, it was the custom on Twelfth Night to light twelve small bonfires and one large one to represent Christ and His Twelve Apostles. One of the small fires, previously allotted to Judas Iscariot, was immediately stamped out.

After supper the entire company went out into the cattle byre, taking with them a cake with a hole in the middle. This was placed over the horns of the nearest ox, whereupon, according to an account written in 1791, "The ox is then tickled to make him toss his head. If he throws the cake behind it is the

mistress' perquisite; if before, the bailiff claims the prize."

In Devon it was once customary to go out into the orchards to drink the health of the apple trees in cider, singing:

*Here's to thee, old apple tree,  
Whence thou mayest bud, and  
whence thou mayest blow!  
And whence thou mayest bear  
apples enow!  
Hats full! Caps full!  
Bushel—bushel—sacks full!  
And my pockets full, too.  
Hussa!*

The election of the King of the Bean was a Twelfth Night custom dating back to Roman times. A cake containing a bean was cut into slices and whoever received the portion containing the bean was king for the day.

Occasionally a queen was chosen, as at Holyrood Castle in 1563, when Mary Fleming (one

of the "faithful Maries" of ill-fated Mary Queen of Scots) became Queen of the Bean. An eye-witness wrote:

"Then Queen of the Bean was that day in a gown of cloth of silver; her head, her neck, her shoulders, the rest of her whole body so beset with stones that more in our whole jewel-house was not to be found."

In some places in England the mock king was raised to the ceiling, where he "inscribed crosses on the rafters to protect the house against evil spirits."

And on Twelfth Night, 1662, the diarist John Evelyn records how Charles II took part in a gaming party, losing £100, while the Duke of Ormond had already won £1000 before the more prudent Evelyn withdrew.

The Navy, then as always, was not to be left out of any celebration, for a Naval Chaplain of Charles II's reign wrote:

"We had a great cake made in which was put a bean for the King, a pea for the Queen, a clove for the knave, etc. The cake was cut into several pieces in the great cabin, and all put into a napkin, out of which everyone took his piece as out of a lottery; then each piece is broken to see what was in it, which caused much laughter, and more to see us tumble over each other in the cabin by reason of the rough weather."

Nowadays, in some country districts, people still take Christmas decorations down on January 6. To keep them up after that date, they believe, will bring bad luck to the house.

## "Hello, King Tosh!"

THE sight of Indians and other dark-skinned people walking our London streets during bitter weather often makes passers-by wonder how they preserve their health in such frigid conditions, especially the women, in costumes that seem more picturesque than protective. Like the British, who blithely face Arctic cold and the torrid heat of the tropics, they seem to have constitution enough to adapt themselves to varying temperatures.

One of the first sons of eternal sunshine to risk our climate was Omai, a young man brought back from Tahiti by one of the ships

that sailed with Captain Cook's second round-the-world expedition, and his astonishment when he first felt a piece of ice and learned that it was frozen water was prodigious.

Still, ice surprised Omai no more than Omai surprised George the Third. Received everywhere in the highest circles, he picked up English very well, though some pronunciations were entirely his own. With him "George" was always Tosh. When he was taken to see the King he was quite prepared and cheerfully opened the interview with "How do, King Tosh?"

## COLD COMFORT

*An England Without Blankets*

THE Government regulations concerning the sale of sheets and blankets were announced with the weather at its bitterest, when few people would have been so hardy as to refuse the offer of an extra blanket on the bed. A warm bed is one of the supreme comforts of civilised life, and the idea of a blanketless England is too chilly to contemplate. Yet our ancestors had to endure an exceedingly long era without blankets.

In the olden days, when houses had neither fireplace nor chimney, sleepers lay in a circle with feet towards the fire that burned day and night on a slab of stone or hard clay in the centre of the room. Later, in the houses of the wealthy, the great hall served as the dormitory for all. The day's business having been discharged and the last meal taken, low wooden beds, starkly equipped, were placed against the walls, and there, with nipping airs sweeping through the glassless windows, the sleepers lay; but not in sheets or blankets; the covering was fur, or the fleece of a sheep.

For the poor in their hovels of four walls banked up with turf, and thatched with straw, reeds, or heather, the bed was a mere heap of straw or rushes, and those seeking rest lay in the clothes they had worn all day. Moreover, the bedroom was divided merely by a rough partition from the adjoining shelter in which the pigs and poultry were housed.

It needs but the possession of a good pair of blankets to make us realise how much more fortunate we are than were our shivering, rheumatically forefathers of the blanketless age.

## MUSICAL TEAMWORK

YORKSHIRE is to have a new kind of Municipal Orchestra, with ten local authorities co-operating. Leeds, Hull, Wakefield, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Harrogate, Halifax, Rotherham, Huddersfield, and Keighley have all approved the plan, and each will sign a draft agreement for three years from September 1. A programme of 120 concerts is planned, and the cost will be about £500,000. Leeds will have 60 of the concerts and will therefore pay half of this cost.

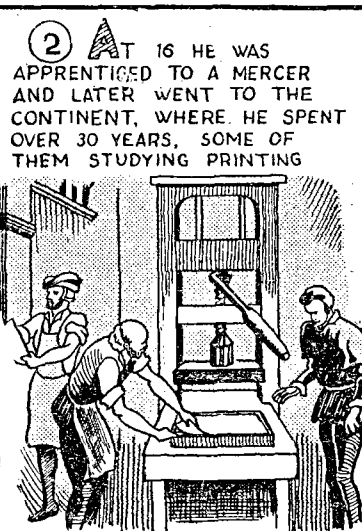
## WHO WAS HE?

## Picture-Story of a Great Craftsman



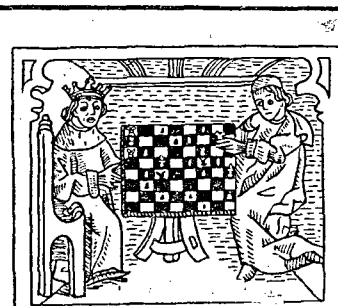
1

ABOUT THE YEAR 1422 A BOY WAS BORN IN KENT, AND IN THESE FIELDS AT TENTERDEN HE WALKED AS A LAD.



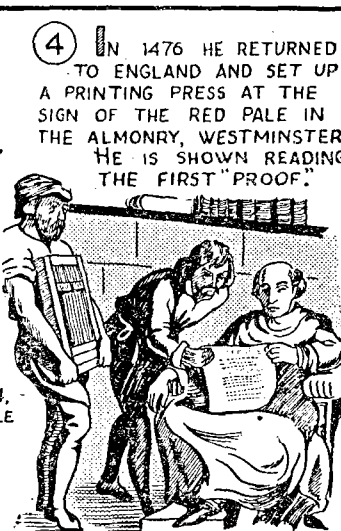
2

AT 16 HE WAS APPRENTICED TO A MERCER AND LATER WENT TO THE CONTINENT, WHERE HE SPENT OVER 30 YEARS, SOME OF THEM STUDYING PRINTING



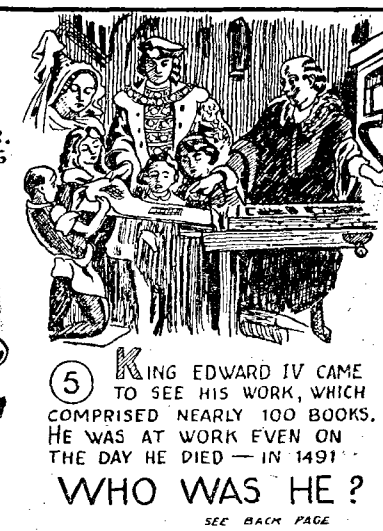
3

THE FIRST WORK PRINTED IN ENGLISH, A HISTORY OF TROY, HE PRODUCED ABOUT 1474, PROBABLY AT BRUGES. A LITTLE LATER HE PRINTED A BOOK ON CHESS, ANOTHER TRANSLATION FROM THE FRENCH. HERE IS A WOODCUT FROM IT.



4

IN 1476 HE RETURNED TO ENGLAND AND SET UP A PRINTING PRESS AT THE SIGN OF THE RED PALE IN THE ALMONRY, WESTMINSTER. HE IS SHOWN READING THE FIRST "PROOF."



5

KING EDWARD IV CAME TO SEE HIS WORK, WHICH COMPRISED NEARLY 100 BOOKS. HE WAS AT WORK EVEN ON THE DAY HE DIED — IN 1491.

WHO WAS HE?

SEE BACK PAGE



The Children's Newspaper, January 11, 1947

# THE ELECTRON AS THE SLAVE OF MAN

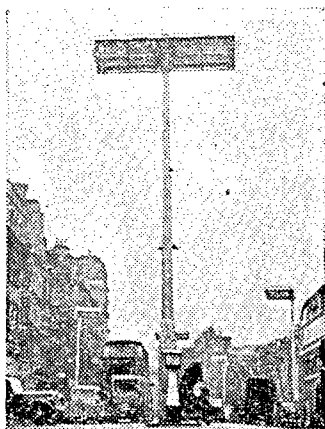
The electron is being talked about a great deal these days, but it is no new thing. It has, in fact, been with us since the beginning of the world. But only in modern times has man probed its secrets to serve his own ends.

**E**LECTRONICS had been observed in the form of frictional electricity centuries before Christ, for the primitive woman while spinning noticed that silk had magnetic properties. These were due to the rubbing of a garment on the moving part of her spinning apparatus and were caused by electrons transferred upon it to the silk. And very modern science has shown in this century that all matter is composed of countless electrons racing in their orbits around central charges of positive electricity.

The electron age started, from man's point of view, when half a century ago it was discovered that electrons could be driven off from atoms and molecules, which hitherto had been regarded as self-contained entities. It started when the electrons flying from the hot filaments of an incandescent lamp could be put to incredibly useful purposes.

## Speech & Its Thousands of Vibrations a Second

A solid substance, such as a piece of metal, if sufficiently heated will emit electrons. This is the secret of the wireless valve, for electrons are highly susceptible to small changes in the driving voltage. A thousandth part of a volt will give electrons a speed of twelve miles a second! The exceedingly quick response has given the valve its power to deal with the ten to fifteen thousand vibrations a second that take place in human speech, and with the delicate overtones in music.



Street Lighting — Fluorescent lamps in a London thoroughfare

Ever since Faraday showed the way to create electricity for the benefit of man, electrons have been travelling along copper wires and "carrying" electric currents round the windings of magnets and of the armatures which rotate in their field. In the simple Voltaic cell that was used for years in the telegraph service, the action of the sulphuric acid in the Daniell cell upon the metal plate caused electrons to pass from the copper to the zinc, the zinc plate becoming negatively charged so that an electric current flowed.

The whole romance of electrons really centres round the two great discoveries or inventions of Sir John Ambrose Fleming and Dr Lee de Forest. Fleming found that the electrons passing from the filament of an incandescent electric lamp to a metal plate

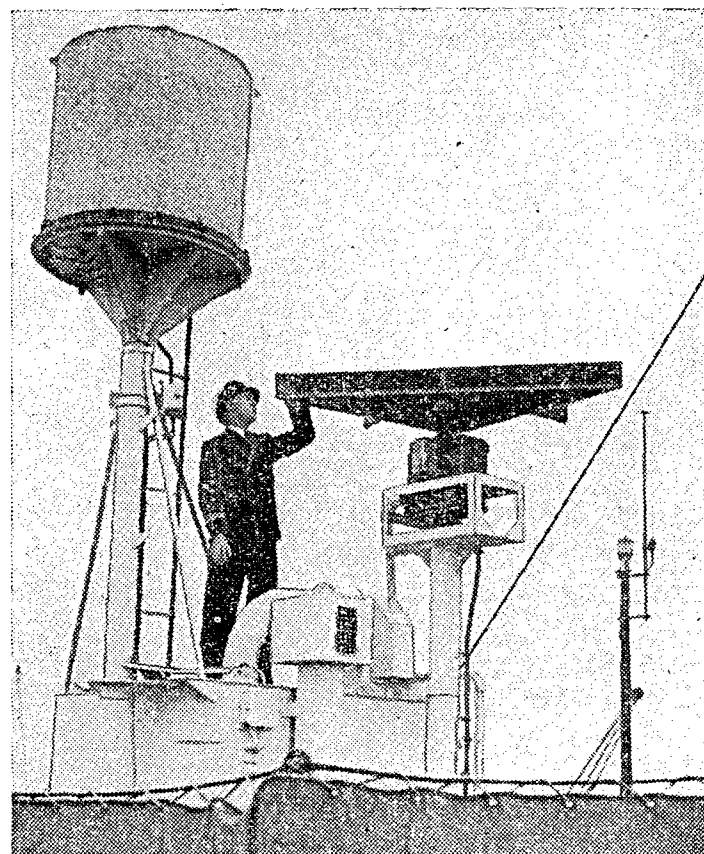
fixed in the top of the bulb would convey a wireless current in one direction; De Forest made the amazing improvement of putting a charged "grid" in between, thereby increasing the strength of the radio current many times.

The electron valve has given us wireless speech and music, and by its power of amplifying has enabled us to use, in a hundred ways, the power given off by photo-electric substances when a ray of light falls upon them. In simple words, by the use of the valve we have got talking pictures, wonderful counting and sorting devices, burglar alarms, the distant control of aeroplanes and ships without pilots, the ability to see through fogs, television, radar, and all the other electronic devices and inventions of this astounding new age.

## Imitation Daylight From Fluorescent Tubes

We must consider, too, another very important electronic field—illumination. The long tubes of artificial daylight emitted by fluorescent tubes are becoming very familiar. They are destined to replace very largely the incandescent bulbs which have served us so well for fifty years. In these tubes exists a very busy world of electrons. The atoms and molecules of the gases contained in them are excited when struck by electrons from the terminals, and so radiate light. Electrons become detached from the atoms as the result of the collisions with other electrons, and, driven by the electric field within the tube, they cause the liberation of still more electrons. With astonishingly little power we obtain a beautiful soft light, and by selecting suitable gases this light can be made an almost perfect imitation of daylight.

We hear much just now of electronic ovens which will cook a joint in a minute or less, but, as a matter of scientific fact, the



Radar—Part of the equipment of the Queen Elizabeth. This liner has three radar units for blind navigation

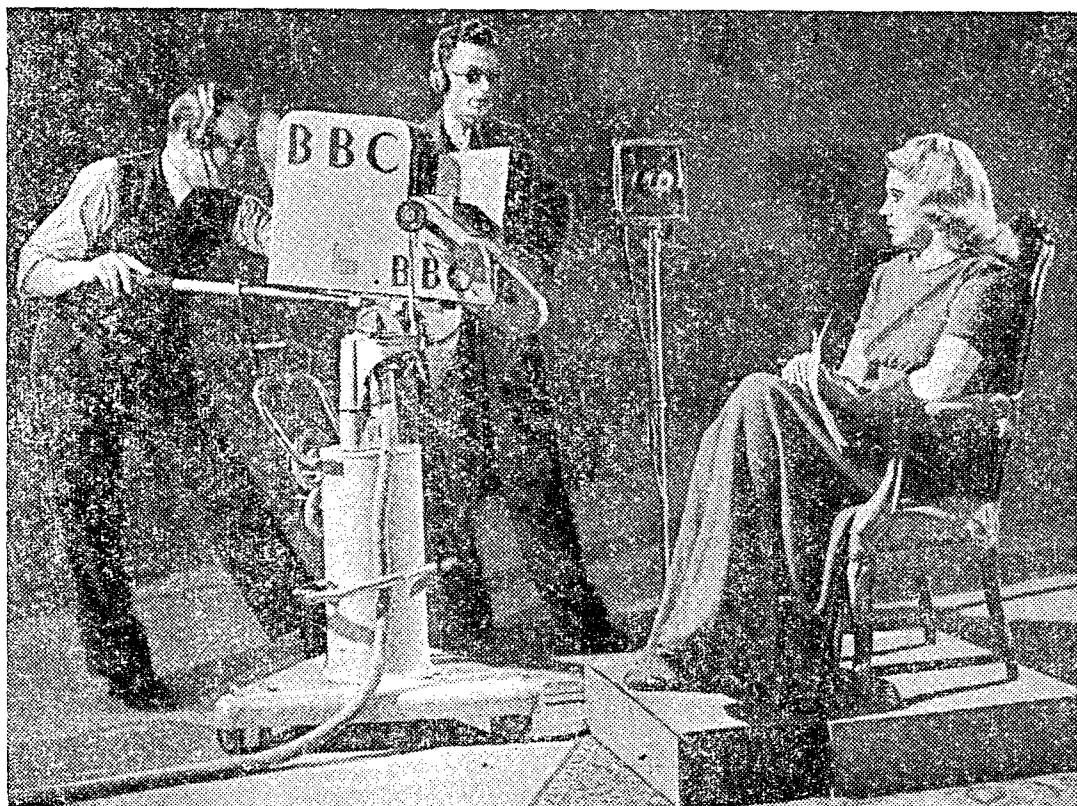
high-frequency furnace has been in use for a considerable time. A high-frequency oscillating current passes through an "inductor" coil within which is a crucible; while the inductor remains cool, the contents of the crucible are heated very quickly by eddy currents induced in it. In a big high-frequency crucible many tons of steel can be melted in an hour.

Again, a beam of electrons can be bent this way or that by a magnet, or by electrostatic power, and this fact has been ingeniously used to make the beam draw a luminous picture upon a fluorescent screen. This is the secret of the television screen and of the cathode tube screen used in radar. And further, by means of lenses which are really magnets or electrically charged plates, the electron beam can be bent as rays of light are

bent by a lens, and so one of the greatest of all inventions has come about—the electron microscope.

Amazing, indeed, will be the revelations made by the electron microscope in the near future. For just as the X-rays have revealed the atomic structure of substances and have introduced a new era in chemical research, so this instrument, magnifying a thousand times more highly than the most powerful microscope made with glass lenses, has already revealed a new world of physical structure.

Things we thought so small as to be the elementary units of Nature are now seen to be complicated structures of yet smaller things, so we are beginning to wonder if we shall one day see the real, infinitely small "bricks" used by the Creator in the building of the world.

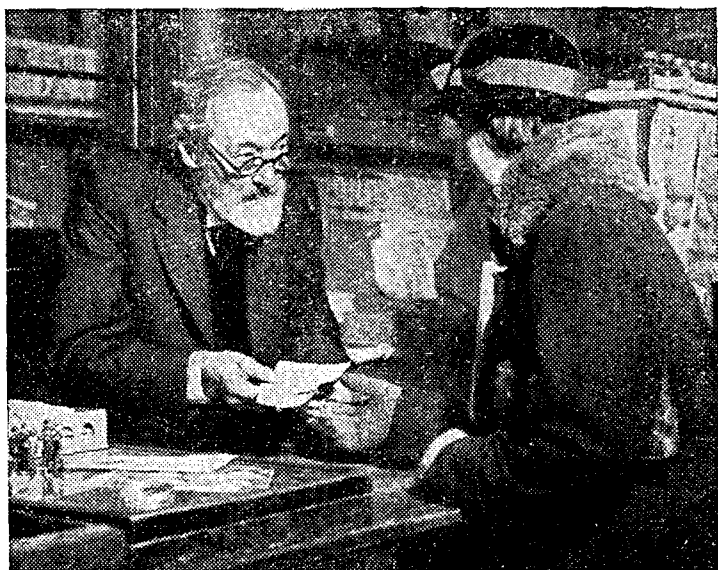


Television—the camera scans a performer in a BBC studio



Photo-Electric Apparatus — Testing soil at a research station in Yorkshire





### A Long Life of Service

Mr R. J. Fox of Northfleet, Kent, who at 95 was the oldest sub-postmaster in Britain, has retired. His proudest memory is receiving the BEM from the King.

## NATIONALISING BRITAIN'S TRANSPORT

A vast and, in the opinion of many people, a revolutionary change in our country's transport system is foreshadowed for next year, and MPs will soon be discussing in committee the Government's Transport Bill, the Second Reading of which was recently passed in the House of Commons.

This is a Bill to enable the State to take over all the Railways in Great Britain, many commercial road vehicles, about 2100 miles of canals, and to take over or control buses, road coaches, trams, and docks.

To run this state control of Britain's inland transport, it is proposed that there should be appointed a British Transport Commission.

The present owners of the railways—the shareholders—and the owners of road haulage undertakings, and so on, are, of course, to be compensated for giving up their property to the State.

They will be given what is to be called British Transport Stock, which will probably pay interest at two and a half per cent, and the amount of this stock will be equivalent to that of the shares they held in the railway companies. The value in money of these railway shares being that quoted on the Stock

Exchange over some period before the general election.

Not all Road Haulage businesses are to be taken over; those engaged in furniture removals, or carrying liquids in bulk in tanks, or meat, livestock, and heavy indivisible loads, are exempt. But all Road Haulage concerns carrying goods over distances of more than 40 miles, are to be taken over. Those remaining in private hands will not be allowed to carry other people's goods for more than 25 miles from the Road Haulier's operating centre, but firms will be allowed to send their own goods in their own vehicles over distances up to 40 miles, and even farther if they can obtain a permit.

The Road Hauliers to be taken over will also be paid in British Transport Stock, and, in some cases, will receive sums in compensation for the ending of their businesses.

To settle all disputes about compensation, a Transport Arbitration Tribunal will be set up.

These are only a few of the provisions of this ambitious Bill which contains 127 clauses and 13 schedules. It is proposed that the British Transport Commission shall take over our transport on January 1, 1948.

## Reviving Scotland's Celtic Art

IN the famous Inverness-shire beauty spot, Glenurquhart, crofters, gillies, trappers, woodmen, and other workers in cottages scattered along the glen, are studying to master the 2000-year-old Celtic craftsmanship. They are the pioneers in a new fireside industry which promises to spread throughout the mainland and islands of the North.

These glen-folk walk (some of them miles) to a gathering place at Drumnadrochit one evening each week and eagerly learn there how to produce their own articles—quiltings, embroideries, jewellery, and wood carvings—in the ancient and very beautiful Celtic designs.

Their teacher is Mr George Bain, an authority on Celtic art, who sees in their enthusiasm the fulfilment of a dream he has cherished for 15 years—the establishment of a College of Celtic Art at Drumnadrochit. His aim is that such a college should be the headquarters for a network of Celtic Art groups in all Highland parishes.

An old shop has already been given for use as a show-room and work-room, and the crafts open up opportunities for the ordinary man and his wife to earn a little extra money. There will be a protective trade mark for all articles produced, just as the Islemen have for their home-produced Harris tweed.

## Fighting the Sea and the Sand

DURING the war, while we were strengthening our defences against the enemy, we had little time to spare for another and more persistent enemy, the sea. As a result our sea fortifications all round the coast are sadly in need of repair. The Government is well aware of the peril and a Commission which has been surveying the coasts of England and Wales will soon make its report. Repairs will be expensive and have been estimated at £150,000 to the mile.

In the far north of Scotland at Culbin Sands on the Moray Firth, a grim battle has been in progress for many years against yet another enemy, sand, and the fighters are, strangely enough, the employees of the Forestry Commission.

Across Culbin there are always tons of sand blowing in the wind. Silently, relentlessly, the sand spreads ever wider over the surrounding fields, and to prevent more land being obliterated the Forestry Commission are planting trees. First the "desert" is thatched over with thousands of Scotch firs and Corsican pines to provide a foundation. As soon as this huge carpet is laid it is covered with ever-deepening layers of fine sand. Later the trees are planted and provide an effective obstacle to further encroachment on the land.

It was in 1694 that Culbin Sands first experienced disaster. One night a violent sandstorm swept over the richly fertile Barony of Culbin, overwhelming fields, orchards, and cottages, and even burying the mansion house under thousands of tons of sand. Since then only tussocky grass has grown on the wastes that were left. What was done in a few hours at Culbin by a freak of Nature man is now trying to undo by years of toilsome, persevering labour.

### Riding High



A little Italian girl in Rome proudly surveys the world from her brother's shoulders, while he is engrossed in his comic paper.

## The Editor's Table

### ARISE, PROUD CITY!

A NEW London in twenty-five years is the dream of the Leader of the House of Commons, Mr Herbert Morrison, and it is a dream which may well come true.

When the great plan for London's refashioning was conceived it was estimated that it would take fifty years to complete the work. Mr Morrison hopes that it can be done in half that time, so that within another generation we may see London a proud modern city without slums and shabby, unworthy disfigurements.

IN the East End of London, where air raids in some ways helped forward the plans for slum-clearance, work has already begun. The maze of small streets behind the great thoroughfares going eastward will disappear. New districts—almost village-like in their homeliness—are being planned.

South of the Thames a new London will come into being. All the medley of ancient property which now stares the visitor in the face from the new Waterloo Bridge will give way to a noble vista. Charing Cross Railway Bridge, too, is to go, one of innumerable eyesores which will be removed.

BIT by bit the new London will emerge, not this time in a crazy, unplanned manner, but according to a well-laid scheme. London needs, for instance, a more handsome square near the seat of government in Westminster, and so more open land is now to be added to Parliament Square and the roadways replanned. Thus will arise a square of dignity fit to be a place of ceremonial in the heart of the Empire.

In Bloomsbury the majestic centre of London University already reveals a glimpse of the glory that will arise in London's quarter of culture and learning. The old squares of Bloomsbury are to be fitted into the plan, so retaining what is typically a part of the London scene—the mixture of old and new, the graceful intermingling of different styles of building.

We need a London of which all the citizens of the British Empire may be proud, at home and far across the seas. We need a London which can unashamedly welcome the citizens of all the world. We need a London worthy of her age-old story, which has made her a magnet for all mankind. A new London is about to arise: let us hope and trust that the planners and the architects and the builders will endow her with new symmetry and grace to match the old grandeur and glory that nothing can take away.

### From War to Peace

IT is encouraging indeed to hear that our Ordnance factories, which, during the war, had to turn out such vast quantities of machines for destroying human life, have now turned to the production of goods for fostering it and making it pleasant. This change-over is well illustrated at the Royal Ordnance Factories Exhibition, called From Destruction to Construction, which is open at the Carlton Hotel, London, until January 18.

The display shows how factories which formerly made weapons are now turning out such things as electric and gas cookers, petrol engines, sections of prefabricated houses, and razors. Workshops which once made gun mountings are now producing steel wagons. A factory which once made 22,000 shell fuses a week is now turning out alarm clocks and clock making machinery. And there are other examples of the great change-over from war to peace.

It is the sort of change-over we are all delighted to see.

### A Gesture of Friendship

COULD there be a more kindly gesture than that of Argentina in giving us, free of all charge, 15,000 tons of meat, worth £870,000, which everyone over here will share during next week? Truly, as the Minister of Food has said, it is a "gesture of friendship."

One good turn deserves another; and we know of more than one family who have decided to send to their favourite charity the money saved by this good-neighbour attitude of the Argentine.

And so a good deed goes on!

### JUST AN IDEA

As Robert Browning wrote, *It's no use trying to shine if you won't take time to fill your lamp.*

### Under the E

A FAMOUS pianist played through both books of Brahms' Variations and remained cool to the end. Perhaps the room wasn't heated.

IN summer we go along the lanes to pick flowers. In winter we pick our way.

SOME shoppers invariably see what they want to buy. Others want to buy what they see.

A WELL-KNOWN author always uses the present tense. And makes it the tense present.



AN amateur carpenter has made his own meat safe. By eating it, we assume.



## THINGS SAID

Loss and destruction are not the end, but a step forward to the new world for which millions of unknown soldiers gave their lives.

*General Smuts*

Of the persons killed in road accidents in London, three-fifths are pedestrians—in other words, mostly local inhabitants. Any town so planned that its citizens are killed and injured in vast numbers is obviously ill-planned.

*Assistant Commissioner,  
Metropolitan Police*

THE present fuel and power crisis is the price we must pay for victory. We are shivering now because we sweated at Alamein and in Italy and France.

*Chairman of the Central  
Electricity Board*

WHAT I am struggling to do is to get peace for the world.

*Ernest Bevin*

## A Little Seed

AMONG our recent correspondence was a postcard which brought us news of a tiny seed planted in the C.N. as long ago as 1933.

A lady in Surrey then asked for old C.N.s to be sent to her, to be included with other papers which she forwarded occasionally to Australia for those who could not afford to buy them. Her recent postcard tells us that up to the week before Christmas 5144 C.N.s had been received and sent to the Dominions, India, and U.S.; and she adds: "Each copy brings knowledge, kindness, interest, good will, and international understanding."

It is indeed gratifying to know that the little seed planted so long ago has grown into a big tree of kindness which continues to flourish. Thank you, Surrey Reader; and thank you all who have continued for so long to nurture the tree.

## Editor's Table

PETER PUCK  
WANTS TO KNOW

If tall stories  
are told in  
skyscrapers



A CERTAIN celebrity is said to be an imposing figure. Hope he does not impose on his friends.

SOME children spend their pocket money as soon as they get it. Don't even need a pocket.

A MOTHER spends most of her time looking after her children. Shouldn't let them run away.

SOME people like to have a grievance. Have one if they haven't.

A CHICKEN farmer hopes to get eggs all the year round. But they will probably be oval.

## Seven Healers

LONDON statues that honour famous benefactors in the Science of Healing are few in number and their place almost forgotten. In lamenting this forgetfulness, the *Lancet* names all there are!

Lord Lister stands in Portland Place; Jenner in Kensington Gardens; and Sir Hans Sloane in the Physic Garden at Chelsea. John Hunter's bust is now back in Leicester Square; Miss Florence Nightingale and Nurse Cavell stand where all can see them every day; and Miss Aldrich Blake where few will expect to find her, in Tavistock Square.

But as the Psalm in commemoration of Benefactors reminds us, these were those whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten, and their name liveth to all generations.

## C.N. Handwriting Test

THE Editor thanks the many teachers and others for their letters of appreciation which have accompanied entries for the C.N. Handwriting Test. He has found it quite impossible to reply individually to these letters, but he asks their writers to accept this acknowledgment of their good will.

The judging of the competition is now proceeding and the result will be announced at an early date.

## The Friend Inanimate

I REMEMBER once seeing an advertisement in the papers, with which I was much struck, and which I will take the liberty of reading: "Lost, in the Temple Coffee House, and supposed to be taken away by mistake, an oaken stick, which has supported its master not only over the greatest part of Europe, but has been his companion in his journeys over the inhospitable deserts of Africa; whoever will restore it to the waiter, will confer a very serious obligation on the advertiser; or, if that be any object, shall receive a recompense very much above the value of the article restored." Now, here is a man, who buys a sixpenny stick, because it is useful; and, totally forgetting the trifling causes which first made his stick of any consequence, speaks of it with warmth and affection; calls it his companion; and would hardly have changed it, perhaps, for the gold stick which is carried before the king. *Sydney Smith*

## Weather Prophecy

WHEN oak trees bend with snow in January good crops may be expected.

THE last twelve days in January rule the weather for the whole year.

*Old Time Sayings*

## SNOWFALL

EVERY pine and fir and hemlock Wore ermine too dear for an earl, And the poorest twig on the elm tree Was ridged inch deep with pearl. *James Russell Lowell*

## Ship's Lamp in Church

THE natives of Thursday Island, belonging to Queensland in Australia, are the latest people to ask for their independence.

The news recalls a tragedy which occurred off Thursday Island over fifty years ago, when the passenger liner *Quetta* struck an uncharted reef and sunk, hundreds being drowned. The Australian public were so shocked at the disaster that an accurate charting of the Torres Straits was carried out soon afterwards.

As a memorial to those who lost their lives on the *Quetta* a beautiful church was built on Thursday Island. In front of the altar there is the ship's riding-lamp, which was recovered from the sea 16 years after the tragedy. Another sad relic is the liner's bell, which hangs outside the building.

Thursday Island is one of the many "signal stations" scattered about on tiny Pacific islands. A ship's wireless transmitting apparatus is not always powerful enough to send a message to the desired destination and the signal stations pick up the messages and pass them on at increased strength.

## Sculptor-Bricklayer



This fine bust of Yehudi Menuhin, the famous violinist, was made in spare time by Mr Frederick Miller of Liverpool, who is a bricklayer.

## PAPER FOR STRENGTH

THE very thought of drying the face with a sheet of paper on a cold morning is enough to send a shudder through the frame; but it can be done.

The new wet-strength paper towel is strong, agreeably roughened, and the towelling does not tear even in shaving-water. It is, in fact, a plastic paper, made out of a paper pulp to which a plastic resin has been added. The resin adheres to the paper's fibres, bringing them close together so that they retain their strength, wet or dry.

The treatment was not at first applied to single sheets but to a number of them bound together. These could be made into many-walled paper bags, into which could be packed potatoes, onions, or coal. Wet-strength carriers hold fresh fruit or even ice cubes without moisture seeping through the bag; and there should be a great future for paper sheets that will not tear, or even for paper bank-notes that will last longer.

## TREASURES OF THE KNIGHTS Malta's Library of Romance

A RECENT inquiry has shown that the rebuilding of war-devastated Malta will cost more than was originally estimated. We owe an incalculable debt to the brave people of George Cross Island, so the British Government proposes to vote a further sum of £20,000,000 to help them.

In 1942, £10,000,000 was granted with a pledge that if this sum were insufficient more help would be given.

Many things of the greatest historic interest were destroyed in Malta by bombs, but, fortunately for the world, the priceless manuscripts and documents contained in the Royal Malta Library are safe.

One of the richest romances of the world has for 400 years been housed in this library which, after years of siege, is still miraculously intact in its lovely 18th-century home, standing in the midst of Malta's devastated areas. Part of Malta's reconstruction plan is to have an adequate survey of this rich collection, so that the world may hear about its wonders.

For 150 years this great library has been comparatively unknown. Only a handful of the world's scholars have come to know a little of its treasure. There are in it over 10,000 manuscripts, written in all the centuries from the 12th to the 19th. The manuscripts cover all sides of European life centring round the Mediterranean, for Malta has always been at the cross-roads for all travellers in the Mediterranean, and many of them have given precious manuscripts to the library.

## The Holy Order

But the chief wonder of the Malta library is the complete archives of the Order of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, the great company of knights pledged to maintain unceasing warfare against the Moslems and to gain possession, if possible, of the holy places in the Holy City. When they were driven from Palestine and the Island of Rhodes, they came in 1530 to Malta, which was granted to them as their permanent home by the Emperor Charles V.

In all their warfare the Knights of St John never forgot to protect their precious library of charters, leases, property deeds, diplomatic and royal letters, proofs of nobility—all

written in medieval Latin—and also some of the works of famous European writers of the Knights' times. Most of the great names of European history from the days of the Crusades onwards are mentioned in the documents, but no one has ever deciphered all the documents.

## Starting an Index

The Knights of St John would bequeath their books to the Malta library, and many beautiful manuscripts from private collections in Europe have found a permanent home in Malta. In 1776 the present library building was begun, but unfortunately the library has never had enough money to provide an adequate staff. Only in 1937 did the Government of Malta vote £300 to start an index of this great collection. That work had to cease in 1939, and then only 45 manuscripts had been indexed.

Under the new decision, however, Malta's heroic librarian, the Chevalier Hannibal Scicluna, will be able to restart and make real progress in this gigantic task which hitherto he has been tackling single-handed. One of his treasures is the letter that Henry VIII wrote to the Knights. Here, too, are letters from Catherine de Medici, Marie Antoinette, two centuries of Austrian emperors, which illuminate history and which are yet to be revealed to the world.

The Chevalier realised that the library was threatened in 1938. Before the war broke out he started to remove his precious documents to vaults and cellars, so that before the great air-siege of Malta began the library was safe—kept free from damp by an electric ventilation. Only one manuscript was lost, and that was eaten by rats. Now the 300,000 books handed down by the Knights, and all the precious manuscripts, are back on their shelves, ready for their wonder story to be told to the world.



**THIS ENGLAND** The quiet beauty of Barrow-on-Trent, a village in Derbyshire



## PRINCELY PENSIONS

### Bounteous Rewards in Days Gone By

MANY extraordinary examples of perpetual pensions are called to mind by the fact that a Bill to terminate the pension granted to the heirs of Lord Nelson is now being considered by a Select Committee of the House of Commons.

Enormous sums have been paid in these so-called perpetual pensions. The Nelson tribute has already cost £700,000. A pension of £4000 a year to the heirs of the great Duke of Marlborough, who died in 1722, ran until 1884, when it ceased on payment by the nation of £107,780. Heirs of Lord Rodney drew for over a century the £2000 a year granted in 1793 to mark that great sea-warrior's exploits.

These rewards were all for valiant service rendered to the nation, but there have been striking exceptions. Charles the Second was lavish with money not his own. In 1676 he bestowed on the first Duke of Richmond and his heirs "for ever," a gift of a shilling on every ton of coal exported from the Tyne for use in England. A century later this tax was changed in form to a payment of £19,000 a year, and it was finally redeemed at the public cost for £633,333! To the Duke of Grafton and his heirs Charles awarded payments for offices with names whose very meaning is lost to us. One of the offices was redeemed after two centuries for £22,714 12s 8d! A second of the Grafton offices endured until 1835; a third long brought the family a yearly pension of £6870 in connection with the "dues of butlerage and prisage."

Probably mindful of the wishes of his brother, James the Second bestowed on the first Duke of St Albans and his heirs the

office of Master of the Hawks, with a salary of £391 1s 5d plus £200 a year for four falconers, plus £600 a year for providing hawks, plus £182 10s for providing "pigeons, hens, and other meat" for the hawks. The total was eventually reduced to £956 a year, and so it stood until 1891, although there had been neither hawking nor hawks for generations; in that year this astonishing instance of royal favour was redeemed by payment of £18,335.

Modern legislators have shown displeasure over the continuance of these acts of favouritism where little or no service of value was performed. A public inquiry resulted in the recommendation that salaried offices without duties should be abolished, and, with them, pensions beyond the lifetime of those then in receipt of such benefits. The perpetual pensions were at length reduced to two, the Rodney and the Nelson, and of these only the one under parliamentary scrutiny survives.

The record of the pensions that the nation has had to pay at the whim of bygone rulers, where there was no return in service, makes one of the strangest chapters of the social history of our country; and not England alone, for in the past both Scotland and Ireland have been saddled with pensions for royal favourites of whom they knew nothing and to whom they seemed to owe neither duty nor gratitude.



### The Tin Man

Not a knight in shining armour, but The Tin Man in the play Wizard of Oz, which is being performed at a London theatre. He finds a car more comfortable than walking in his metal suit.

## A GEORGE CROSS HEROINE

FOR a woman to win the George Cross denotes heroism of the same highest order as that of a man who wins the V.C. and the recent posthumous award of the George Cross to Madame Szabo, Women's Transport Service (First Aid Nursing Yeomanry) places her in that small immortal band of people who never for a moment flinched from suffering and death in the service of their Cause.

Madame Szabo was a young Englishwoman of 24 who could speak French as well as she could English. In 1944 she volunteered to be parachuted into France to carry out a dangerous mission. She twice escaped the sinister Gestapo but was trapped at last with some of her comrades in a house which had become

surrounded by Gestapo agents.

She refused to surrender, but, taking a Sten gun, she barricaded herself in part of the house and fired back at the Germans. At last she fell exhausted and was captured.

Then came the most terrible part of this heroic young woman's ordeal. In order to try to gain information from her, her inhuman persecutors continuously and atrociously tortured her. Yet in spite of her cruel sufferings she never gave her tormentors a scrap of information, nor gave away one of her comrades. In the end she was executed.

She died away from her friends and her little daughter, but left a magnificent example of courage and steadfastness to inspire future generations.

## The Proud Record of Rhodes Scholars

ANNOUNCING recently that for the first time he had received two nominations from India for Rhodes Scholarships, Lord Elton, Secretary of the Rhodes Trust, spoke of how Rhodes scholars of the past have lived up to the ideal of Rhodes, which was that they should make public service their special aim.

Of the 2196 Rhodes scholars before 1940, between 600 and 650 have taken some part in educational activities, 19 former Rhodes scholars have become judges and 20 K.C.s, and some have become the most distinguished lawyers in the U.S. The two best brain specialists today and also Sir Edward Florey, the co-discoverer of penicillin, are among the 150 in the medical profession. Four Rhodes scholars became Fellows of the Royal Society.

Of 19 German Rhodes scholars who came to Oxford after 1929,

eight managed to get out of Germany and served against that country in the war. Some even won decorations for bravery with the U.S. Forces. Four of them who remained in Germany are known to have conspired against the Nazi régime and at least three were executed by the Nazis.

Cecil Rhodes indeed started a great tradition.

## CONQUERING A DESERT

INCLUDED in the current Soviet five-year plan is an irrigation canal 380 miles long which is to create a vast cotton-field and rich cattle pasturage in one of the bleakest desert areas of Central Asia. Work on the canal will begin shortly, and it is due for completion by 1950.

The canal will cross the Kara Desert area of Turkmenia, connecting the waters of the Amu-

The Children's Newspaper, January 11, 1947

## FIRST FROM THE CLYDE

### A Giant Food Ship

THE first big ship to be launched from the Clyde in 1947 is a 12,000-ton Empire food-carrier.

More than 500 feet long, she is the latest of a fleet of refrigerating ships built on the Clyde to bring more food to Britain. Last year 125,000 tons of refrigerated produce came from Australia alone, and several new vessels will soon be operating between New Zealand and England.

With 58,700 cubic feet of insulated cargo-space and 192,000 cubic feet for general cargo, the new ship will be a floating laboratory. Brine, flowing through miles of pipes, will extract heat from the atmosphere of cargo holds to ensure a correct temperature in all climates. Sea breezes will be wafted through-out fruit holds and the temperature of the atmosphere will be controlled by "electric eyes" which will regulate the flow of air into the holds.

The new ship will have plastic bulkheads in cargo spaces, instead of the usual steel and wooden bulkheads. Everything is being done to ensure that cargoes will arrive here as fresh as when shipped at New Zealand. Even flannel has been packed round door-joints of meat safes. Pitch, fibre-glass, and slag wool, together with granulated cork, are but a few of the materials used to keep food fresh.

The vessel will be a floating lighthouse at sea, for her name will be ablaze in electric lights from her tall superstructure.

## The Saint in Law

AFTER a vacation of three weeks, the Law Courts reopen on the 11th of this month, when the judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature resume their labours for what is known as the Hilary Sitting. This sitting ends on the Wednesday before Easter, and is followed by: the Easter Sitting, from April 30 to June 7; the Trinity Sitting, from June 18 to October 12, and the Michaelmas Sitting from October 12 to the end of the Law Courts' year, on December 21. The names of all four thus associate them with the Church, as has been the case ever since Church and Law were one.

The present sitting takes its name from St Hilary, who, born in the fourth century of wealthy pagan French parents, was not converted to Christianity until late in life. Deeply learned, he flung himself into the religious controversies that then divided men, and became the foremost writer and disputant of his time.

St Hilary has been dead nearly 1600 years, but his name still lives in our Law Courts, and at Oxford University, where the first, Lent, term bears his name.

### BEDTIME CORNER

#### Humphrey Hedgehog's Mistake

HUMPHREY HEDGEHOG lived in the children's garden. They would sometimes give him saucers of milk in summer, but in winter he always made a cosy hole in a bank and went to sleep until the spring.

It was the Christmas holidays. The children were all at home and were making a bonfire in the garden.

In his hole in the bank, Humphrey lay curled up in a warm ball. He was not sure how long he had been there, but he was now beginning to find it rather too warm. He woke up and sniffed.

"There is certainly a warm smell," he said to himself. "It must be spring. I shall have to be making a move, or I shall miss all the best insects."

He stretched his prickles and made his way slowly out of his hole.

"Dear me!" he murmured when he got to the top. "What ever has happened to the world? It seems to be all dark, except for this hot, bright thing by my hole. And what a cold wind there is! I don't think I like it."

He turned to go back to his hole, but found that he had lost the way, and wandered round miserably, looking for it.

Suddenly, little David, who

was sitting on Daddy's shoulder, shouted out: "Humfie! Humfie!"

All the children looked, and there was Humphrey Hedgehog, looking very unhappy.

"He must have felt the warm fire and thought it was spring," said Joan, picking him up gently. "How cold he will be when the fire has gone out!"

"We must take him indoors and make him a nice warm nest in a basket," said Mother.

So Humphrey stayed indoors for the rest of the winter, but although it was warm, he was not quite so happy as he would have been in his hole, and made up his mind not to make such a silly mistake again.



Two Young Friends



The Children's Newspaper, January 11, 1947

# Winter is a Hard Time For the Birds

Wintry weather brings hardship to our wild birds, which face the cold, cheerless days without the shelter man provides for their domesticated relatives. But so accustomed are they to the vagaries of our climate that most wild birds adapt themselves to Britain's winters.

**I**n winter it is often impossible for the birds to find the food for their normal diet. They must make shift with whatever is available. The partridge, for example, readily adapts itself to changing circumstances. During the spring it feeds upon insects, but in autumn it lives chiefly on seed. Then, when such food has become scarce, the partridge grazes, like geese, upon the tips and green shoots of plants.

To compensate for winter shortage of food, many birds draw upon the reserves of fat they built up round their own bodies during seasons of plenty. The little owl becomes so fat and well-fed in the autumn, that, when winter storms make hunting difficult, it needs to find only a fraction of the beetles and rodents it formerly required. Nevertheless, these owls are often abroad in daylight, for only by constant searching can they find

enough in the wintry countryside to sustain them. Even barn owls, usually regarded as purely nocturnal, are affected by the weather. Not only do they sometimes hunt in the daytime as weather conditions demand, but they have even been seen basking in the pale winter sunshine.

The worst weather with which the birds have to contend is a hard, prolonged frost. The frozen ground cuts off the food supply of thousands of birds which depend on worms and insects for their meals. Then it is that the birds resort to the berries on the hedges, while dead and decaying trees are explored more frequently for the insects which have crept into hiding there.

At the edge of the wood blackbirds and many others scratch in the leafmould for tit-bits, although an hour's searching may be rewarded with only the tiniest morsel.

Pond birds often desert their natural haunts when the water becomes frozen. Moorhens wander disconsolately through fields and hedge-bottoms far from their homes. Herons and ducks find better hunting among the marshes, or near the sea coast, where it is warmer in winter. The curlew, too, leaves its frost-bound moor and migrates to the coastal regions.

Rooks and starlings sometimes try to imitate the gulls' method of obtaining food. On the Thames and other big rivers they make clumsy swoops at the garbage being



Food for the birds in a London park

borne down-stream. If their efforts are successful, they carry their prize to a nearby tree, where they are immediately pursued by a host of hungry brethren.

Gales along the coast usually bring the gulls inland, for even they, whose element is the water, are unable to cope with high seas. They resort to fields and pasture-land, but best of all they like to follow the farmer at his plough, for in the freshly-turned earth they find an abundance of food.

Apart from change of diet, birds alter their routine in other ways during winter. Some species which normally live together in pairs or family groups seem to find safety and consolation in numbers. Linnets and some finches forsake their hedgerows and feed with large flocks of their kind on heath or common. Large companies of starlings and of lapwings roam the countryside in winter. Yet, when spring

returns, they forget their sociable habits and live a more secluded family life again.

Few birds are inclined to sing much during winter, but familiar exceptions are the mistle thrush, which has earned itself the name of "storm cock," and the robin, whose sweet song is hurled defiantly at possible intruders on its territory.

Some birds migrate to warmer lands to avoid the lack of food and unpleasant weather. But the many who remain faithful to this country have a hard time while winter lasts. We can make things easier for some of them by putting out food in our own gardens. Although we cannot offer the birds such a wide variety of food as we once were able to, almost any scraps are gratefully accepted by the many visitors to our gardens.

## TRUMPET CALL TO THE COAST

**A**n interesting relic of the palmy days of the Cornish fishing industry has just come to light. It is a long tin speaking horn or trumpet used by men who kept vigil on the cliffs, waiting for the coming of pilchards.

Day after day, often for many weeks, those vigilant watchers—or "huers," as they were called—were at the post of duty, scanning the sea with eager, expectant eyes. Then, as soon as they saw a dark purple patch in the water, they knew the fish had come! And through the trumpet would go the oft-repeated cry "Heva!" (Found!) "Heva!"

All agog with excitement, the

fishing fraternity would immediately man their boats, with brown nets piled amidships, and hurry off to the fishing ground. Their movements were directed by another huer who, from his vantage point, carried on a kind of signalling with two pieces of wooden framework covered with bushes, waving them this way or that to indicate the precise location of the pilchard shoal. Meanwhile, the glad cry of "Heva!" for which everybody had been waiting, would be swiftly borne inland, echoing through streets and alley-ways, calling housewives from their cooking, children from their lessons, and shopkeepers from their counters to rush to the

beach and lend a hand with gathering in the sea-harvest.

"Aye, those were grand times," an old fisherman of North Cornwall told a CN correspondent. "Never shall I forget the thrill on hearing the cry 'Heva!' coming from the old trumpet. Those days have gone, and so have the fish. Pilchards left the North Cornish coast a long time ago, and nowadays our fleet does its pilchard fishing in Mounts Bay and grounds west of the Lizard."

The forsaken huers' huts—coastwise headquarters of the huers—at St Ives and Newquay, and the speaking trumpet, remain to remind fishermen of those stirring times of yesteryear.

## RIP VAN WINKLE—Washington Irving's Famous Story, Told in Pictures



In the days when North America was a British Colony there dwelt in a beautiful old village in the Catskill Mountains a man named Rip Van Winkle, who was descended from the first Dutch settlers there. He was a good-natured, easy-going fellow, always ready to help a neighbour.



The village children loved Rip Van Winkle, for he would mend their kites and toys, join in their games, or tell them stories about Indians. Although he would never refuse to assist others in the roughest toil, he neglected his own farm so that he and his family were poor. His wife was always bitterly scolding him for not attending to his work.



To escape her sharp tongue he would go to the village inn where, under a signboard showing the English King George, the village idlers would gather to gossip. But even here his wife would pursue him to upbraid him. In despair he took to going up into the mountains with his dog, Wolf, and his gun.



One day he was on a lonely mountainside, gazing down over the broad Hudson River, when he heard someone call his name. Startled, he remembered that this part of the mountains was said to be haunted by strange beings. Looking down he saw a queer white-whiskered figure carrying a keg.

Who was the mysterious stranger who had addressed Rip Van Winkle by name? See next week's instalment

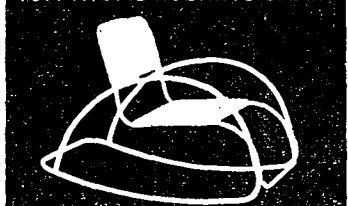


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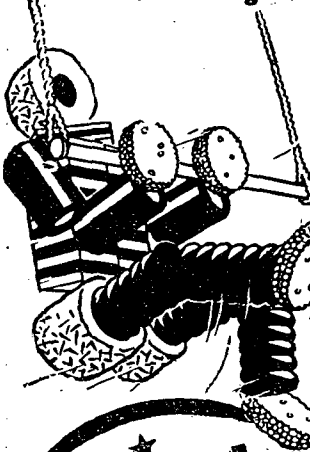
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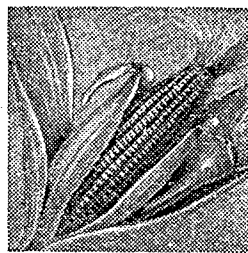
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**TALKING OF CORN—**

IN view of the grave food shortage, it is cheering to know that the last grain harvest of the United States was a record—1155 million bushels of wheat, or 270 million bushels above the previous best average for ten years. Even more astonishing is the total of 3287 million bushels of maize, which beats the ten-year average by nearly 700 million bushels.

A great romance underlies those figures. When white men first reached America, they saw maize for the first time. It grew nowhere else. But America had not an ear of wheat. So the Old World sent her wheat, and she gave maize in return to such Old World countries as had a climate warm enough to grow and ripen it. Columbus, believing that the America of his discovery was India, called its people Indians, and his followers called the American maize Indian corn, as most of us do today. To the Americans, however, it has always been just plain corn. In fact, "corn" to each country is the cereal supplying the main bread stuff or chief grain food. To us it is wheat; to the Scotch it is oats.



Corn on the Cob

The coming of maize to Europe was of immense importance, as was the coming from the same continent of potatoes, quinine, and rubber. Without maize we could not have maintained our great herds of cattle or our numberless flocks of poultry. It was a new food, an addition without compare to animal feeding-stuffs and to human diet. Maize has become as essential to the Italians as oats are to the Scotch. Grinding the maize

to powder they make of it a porridge called polenta, which, when cold, becomes solid. It is then cut into slices, powdered with grated cheese, and then fried, to make what many people consider a deliciously tasty food.

America gave Italy maize; Italian housewives invented polenta, the recipe for which has accompanied millions of Italian emigrants across the Atlantic, until it has become as popular a dish in the New World as in Italy.

Britain is not a maize-growing country—our summers are too uncertain; but increasing quantities of maize are grown here, not as Indian corn, but as a green vegetable. Nevertheless, we shall need all we can get of America's record 3287 million bushels.

Britain gave America not only her wheat, but her horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry, as well as her apples, pears, and plums. Just as we could not do without America, so America could not have thriven without drawing upon our supplies of the things that she lacked as badly as we lacked potatoes, maize, quinine, and rubber. It has been an exchange vastly profitable to both nations.

**A Cage of Nightingales**

MANY good French films are seen in this country, but seldom outside of London, writes a C.N. film correspondent. But one recently shown in London, *A Cage of Nightingales*, is to be "dubbed" in English dialogue and will be seen in many parts of the country.

M. Clement Mathieu is a writer who is trying to get his work published, and does so finally as a serial in a newspaper. The book is the story of M. Mathieu's life, and the film goes back in retrospect and begins the actual story with the newspaper's opening instalment. It shows M. Mathieu going to

an Approved School at Eaubonne as a master and discovering that the bearded Monsieur Rachin, the Head, automatically expects and looks for the worst in every boy under his charge. Mathieu has different ideas. He looks about him for some means of proving the good that is in all the scholars. He discovers in his boys a latent talent for singing, and raises a choir that sings as though inspired.

In this film there is humour and pathos, and a cast of youthful talent. It is to be hoped that this will prove but the first of many excellent Continental films to reach the provinces.

**YOUTH'S OWN THEATRE**

THE Children's Theatre is to produce Oliver Goldsmith's famous comedy, *She Stoops to Conquer*, which was first performed in 1773. It will be seen by about 40,000 London school-children during the coming term. Next spring and summer the play will tour the Home Counties and the North of England. The production will be under Glyndebourne management as were *Great Expectations* and *Tobias and the Angel*, also produced by the Children's Theatre and seen by nearly 250,000 children, many of whom were seeing a real stage play for the first time.

This scheme of presenting famous classical and modern plays to secondary schoolboys and

girls was inaugurated by the LCC with the approval of the Minister of Education, and provincial education authorities sponsor the tours of the Children's Theatre in their areas.

*She Stoops to Conquer* will open at Toynbee Hall, London, on January 13 and will be there until January 24, with performances from Mondays to Fridays. Next it goes to the Shepherd's Bush Empire from January 28 to February 7 (Tuesdays to Fridays only), then to the Camberwell Palace from February 11 to 14, and then to the Lewisham Town Hall from February 17 to 21.

There will be two performances each day, at 10.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.

**A Visitor From Antarctica  
A SEA GIANT  
COMES ASHORE**

AN interesting and unusual visitor to a beach in the South Island of New Zealand recently was a fully-grown sea-leopard nearly 12 feet long. Coming in on the morning tide it stretched out to bask in the sun at the edge of the surf; and although this species of seal has the reputation of being a savage and aggressive animal it showed no hostility when approached quite closely.

Belonging to the family of earless seals (Phocidae), the sea-leopard is much more thoroughly adapted to an ocean-going life than are the seals of the other family, known as the Otariidae, to which the sea-lion and the fur-seal belong. Where the latter can turn their hind limbs forward for walking on land, the hind limbs of the sea-leopard are fixed in a backward position, and ashore it can only work itself along with a kind of caterpillar motion.

The Maori, who knew it as an occasional visitor to the coast, called the sea-leopard pakaka. Although it wanders as far as



A sea-leopard

the Australian coast, the sea-leopard's true home is in the Antarctic Ocean, where it cruises along the edge of the ice on the look-out for a penguin or two to swallow.

Several observers have noticed how the penguins crowd to the edge of the ice, jostling each other until one is pushed into the water. The rest peer over to see how it is faring. If there is a swirl in the water as the sea-leopard catches it, the remaining penguins postpone their fishing for a while!

**Lapland Luxury**



The Lapps in Sweden live in primitive wooden cabins, which are nearly always covered with snow; but some of them now have electricity installed, as the pole in the picture indicates.



The Children's Newspaper, January 11, 1947

## SCIENCE NEWS



### Photographing a Shell in Flight

A SHELL travelling 3000 to 4000 feet a second can be photographed as it comes out of a gun. The Neon lights outside a cinema or theatre give an idea of how it is done. The Neon light is a tube from which have been extracted all but a few particles of gas that glow when a discharge of electricity is sent through the tube.

A new instrument, the Ardiron, makes use of this effect in a new way. The electric shock is raised to 7000 volts, and as this passes through the discharge tube, it evokes a flash of light of the highest intensity—as much as that of a million candle-power, though lasting only a millionth of a second. It is this flash which is reflected on the shell as it leaves the muzzle of the gun, lighting it up for just that fraction of time; and during it the shell is photographed. A really good photograph of the flying shell can be made from 15 feet away.

### Seeing Transparent Bacteria

ONE of the most recent scientific instruments is something midway between the highest-powered ordinary microscope and the electron microscope, and is called the phase microscope. It is likely to be of great help in medical research.

The actual effect of the new arrangement—it is an arrangement rather than a complete new instrument—is to throw into relief otherwise transparent objects by means of shadow outlines formed by diffraction plates placed in the optical path of the light beam.

Hitherto, a tiny living cell, such as a microbe, which is ordinarily transparent, must be killed and stained with a coloured dye in order that it can be seen. Typhoid bacilli, for example, are actually silver-plated by an extremely delicate process in order to make the flagella, or whip-like appendages, visible. But with the phase microscope the structure of living transparent bacteria can be rendered visible, so that they can be studied without any fear of destruction or alteration in shape.

The specimen under observation is first of all illuminated with a hollow cone of light, and then a diffraction plate is placed inside the objective lens. The differences in phase of the light waves cause differences in illumination to which the eye is sensitive, so that structural differences which retard the light rays become visible.

### Nylon Ropes

VERY strong ropes are now being made of Nylon, which are very light and easily handled by yachtsmen. In one hundred feet of half-inch diameter rope there are 29 million feet of Nylon filaments or threads such as would be used in the making of a stocking.

## Keeping the Animals Warm

BY THE CN ZOO CORRESPONDENT

WHEN winter's first really cold spell arrived recently, the Zoo at once got busy trying to keep each of its animals warm enough for its own individual requirements. Normally, this is not too difficult. But with the need for fuel economy the job is not so easy, though much can be done by the placing of oil-stoves in strategic positions, and by supplying extra bedding, and so on.

This year, however, the Zoo's coal supplies are better than might have been expected, and several houses will be heated throughout the colder months.

Outdoor sleeping dens have been getting much attention, too. One of the most familiar sights that early-morning visitors see just now is a keeper splitting open bale after bale of clean straw, which, after carefully looking it over, he stuffs into his charges' "bedrooms." I say "after looking it over" advisedly, because it sometimes happens that a bale harbours bits of wire, nails, or other metal scraps, and if these unwanted oddments were to be put inside the dens with the straw there is always the chance of their being accidentally swallowed. Such mishaps have occurred before now.

The additional "bedding," you see, is not always appreciated by the inmates, some of whom amuse themselves by chewing it up into dust or dragging it out into the open. The objectors, however, usually stop these pranks when experience teaches them that it is colder without it.

### Margery's Tonic

A number of animals are also having oil in one form or another added to their rations. This helps to fortify them against the usual winter ailments, and enables some of them to grow thicker and warmer coats.

One animal, the common fox Margery, who is a tame pet, is having a weekly dose of cod-liver oil, specially provided for her by a woman visitor, who usually gives it to Margery her-

### Round the Museums

#### STONE-PRESSED CHEESE

THIS cumbersome-looking instrument in the National Museum of Wales, at Cardiff, was used in the 18th century for



cheese moulding. The cheese was placed on a wooden block and the huge stone was lowered on to it. It must have been hard work for the Welsh farm lassies who operated it, but in these days of rationing many of us would appreciate the hard work if we could produce a fine tubful of cheeses like that shown in the picture.

self. No help from the keeper is needed, as the vixen thoroughly enjoys her tonic, and indeed, if given the chance, would run through a whole jar at a time!

In the hippo house you will sometimes see another anti-cold remedy being given. This is an onion. Onions have been found very effective in keeping chills at bay, and fortunately the pygmy hippos, to whom they are given, enjoy eating them, although they are rarely allowed to have more than one at a time.

### Underground Sleepers

All of the few natural hibernators in the Gardens have now gone from view and are lying snugly tucked up in their underground retreats. I have not seen a prairie marmot for several weeks past, and no snakes or terrapins in the outdoor reptiliary are visible, though the gardeners, digging over the soil there recently, accidentally dug up two or three slumbering adders, which, however, they quickly replaced—at no harm to themselves, because the adders now are much too sluggish and torpid to think of biting anybody.

In some houses—particularly the monkey house—you will occasionally see hot drinks being passed round on a cold day, and often a keeper's last job before going off duty on a chilly evening is to hand a hot potato to each of the chimpanzees. Hot "spuds," as any schoolboy knows, retain their warmth for a considerable time, and they make excellent "hot-water-bottles" for the apes, who often munch them when they get cool enough!

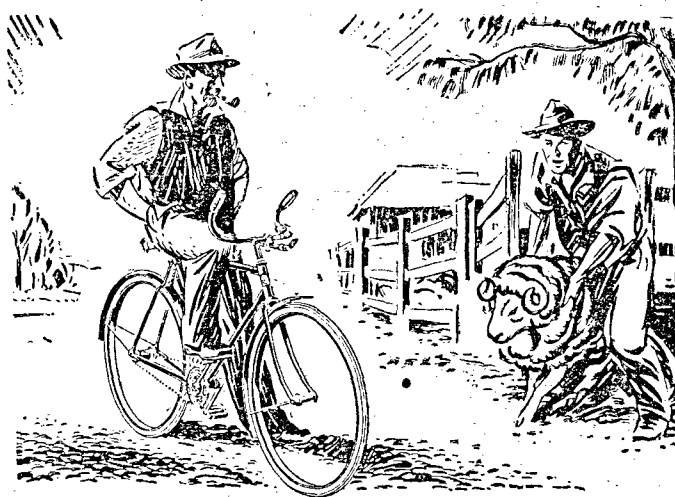
### Enoch Ardén in Yorkshire

THE West Riding Education Committee has decided to purchase Bretton Park and part of its grounds from Lord Alendale and turn it into a training college for teachers in music and art, if the Ministry of Education approve.

Bretton Hall was the scene of one of the various Enoch Arden legends, one of which was made famous by Tennyson. An old ballad tells how Sir William Blackett came home to Bretton Hall to find his wife about to marry again, believing him to be dead. He disguised himself as a beggar and went to the wedding breakfast, where he made himself known, to the great joy of his wife—and the great consternation of the bridegroom!

The park was also the birth-place of Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, one of the earnest Liberals of the days of the Reform Bill, a man of great generosity and a benefactor of the fine arts.

Bretton Park's associations, and its beautiful grounds in which there are two fine lakes, will make an appropriate setting for the study of art and music.



### CYCLING "DOWN-UNDER"

Many cyclists in Australia have a special style of their own—they ride with the handlebars reversed as illustrated here. The handlebars are easily adjustable to normal, but a favourite riding position is as shown in the picture. Hercules Cycles are as popular "down-under" as they are here at home, where you too can own a super-classy Hercules.

# Hercules

*The Finest Bicycle Built To-day*

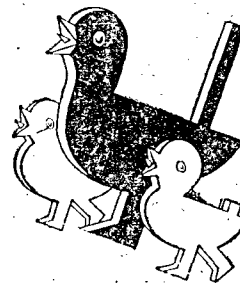
THE HERCULES CYCLE & MOTOR CO. LTD., ASTON, BIRMINGHAM

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# BIRD'S CUSTARD

*Best known -*

*best liked*



BIRD'S CUSTARD AND JELLIES



## THE BRAN TUB

### DAMPED DOWN

HE was inspecting a bungalow with vacant possession. "Does the roof always leak like this?" he asked the agent who was showing him round. "Oh, no, sir," was the indignant reply, "only when it rains."

### Puzzle Limerick

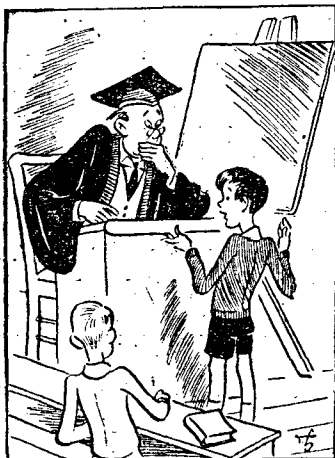
Said a . . . little maiden of Leigh,  
To ring a church . . . is my

But she found when she tolled,  
She must . . . to keep hold  
Of the rope in the belfry at Leigh.

Four words, each made up of a different arrangement of the same four letters, fill these spaces. What are they?

Answer next week

### RODDY



'Yes, sir. I wrote 'I must not waste paper' 500 times, but gave it in for salvage.'

### Tongue Twister

A short shy soldier should shoulder six sorts of short gun stocks.

### RIDDLES ABOUT DOGS

WHEN is a dog's tail like a traffic policeman? When it stops a-waggin' (waggon).

Why is a dog's tail like the heart of a tree? It is farthest from the bark.

What kind of a dog should be three feet long? A yard dog.

Why does a dog wag his tail? Because his tail cannot wag him.

## The Children's Hour

BBC programmes from Wednesday, January 8, to Tuesday, January 14.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Making an English Ballet; Right Away, Tom Bailey—a story; Shelton Junior School Choir. Northern Ireland, 5.0 Try Doing This; Important to Us; Some of My Dogs; Boyd Endowment Infants' Choir. Welsh, 5.0 Mac-Nac the Lapp; Pig and Pastry—a story; Island Children—a talk.

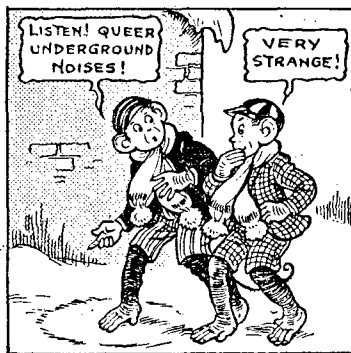
THURSDAY, 5.0 The Chevalier to the Rescue (Part 1)—a story of Brittany after the French Revolution. Welsh, 5.30 Fresh Fields—a country walk.

FRIDAY, 5.0 The Princess and the Goblins (Part 1). 5.40 Pigeon Post (No 14).

SATURDAY, 5.0 The Lark Who Lost His Voice; The Sixpenny Tree.

SUNDAY, 5.0 The Story of David (Part 2). 5.40 Uncle Mac's

## Jacko & Chimp and the Underground Movement



Jacko and Chimp were puzzled when they heard noises underneath them.

### A Games Drive

FOR a party in a flat or where rooms are small, a Games Drive is a very good idea. Have small tables to seat four, with a different competition on each. These should be numbered and a score card should be given to everyone, there being prizes for highest and lowest and the runner-up, of course.

Here are some suggestions for the competitions:

Picking up peas with a pair of knitting needles.

Sewing on buttons.

Making card castles. (This could be done on the dining table where there is more room).

Sorting pins and needles.

Tiddly-winks.

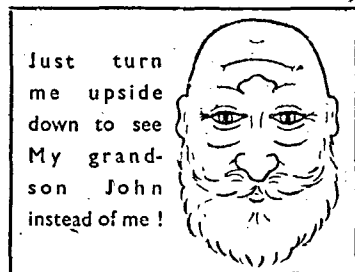
Decide on a time limit for a round, then let each competitor count and mark down his score, at the same time putting the competition pieces back in their places for the next round. After this everyone moves up a table, and the second round begins.

### CATCH QUESTION

WHY did the ox hide (oxide)?  
*Because the ass hid (acid).*

### Pithy Proverb

NONE ever lost himself on a straight road.



The mystery deepened when the snow-covered ground suddenly heaved.

### TRICKY

A SPLENDID box of tricks had John; But his young sister would butt in.

"What must be learned and done I'll do," Said John, "I want applause to win."

But would that girl keep out of it?

Oh, no. She said she'd help him fix

Up this and that, till John burst out:

"Now stop your tricks with my tricks, Trix."

### High Explosive

"WHAT was Professor Drone's lecture about this morning?"

"Oh, he's now got some new theory about the atom bomb."

"H'm! I expect it will blow up like all the rest of his ideas."

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Black-Headed Gulls. "Look at the Sea-gulls!" exclaimed Don to Farmer Gray. "There must be hundreds in that one field. Why do they come inland every winter?" "Because they can obtain their food more easily," replied the farmer. "They are Black-headed gulls," he added.

"But their heads are not black," objected Don. "Not now," agreed Farmer Gray. "Black-headed gulls lose their dark head-dress in the winter. This results in their being confused with the common gull. The birds we are watching have red bills, and legs to match. This proclaims them Black-headed gulls. Common gulls have legs and bills of a yellowish tint."

### Other Worlds

IN the evening Saturn and Uranus are in the south-east.

In the morning Venus and Jupiter are in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at six o'clock on the evening of Tuesday, January 7.



### WHAT IS IT?

Tis blessed by many a Travelling crew. It helps our airmen, Sailors too. This great invention Has a name Which if read backwards Is the same.

Answer next week

## WELL TRAINED

THE traveller was in a panic because his train was about to start and his luggage had not turned up.

Seeing in the distance, and empty-handed, the porter who had taken it, he managed to attract his attention and inquired where his suitcases were.

"Your luggage has more sense than you have, sir," was the reply. "It's in the right train."

### Who Was He?

THE man in the picture-story on page 4 was Caxton.

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Jumbled Poets  
Shakespeare;  
Longfellow;  
Coleridge;  
Browning;  
Milton.  
Beheading  
Crown

SCARF	JOB
AI	AUGURY
TRAIN	R
RUN	MIRE
BUD	DES
ASIA	TIE
D	BICYCLE
GALLOP	EM
EYE	WENDS

